

1 **Vegetation changes and woodland management associated with a prehistoric to**
2 **medieval burnt mound (*fulachta fiadh*) complex at Ballygawley, Northern Ireland**

3
4
5 **ABSTRACT**

6 This paper examines the impact on woodlands associated with burnt mound use
7 from floodplain sediments and peats, using a combination of pollen, non-pollen
8 palynomorphs, micro- and micro-charcoal and worked wood for the first time. We
9 present this data from a multi-period burnt mound complex, dating from the Late
10 Neolithic to the Medieval period, at Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland, to
11 reconstruct vegetation changes from the Neolithic onwards to establish the
12 significance of these changes, in particular on woodlands, whilst the burnt mounds
13 were in use. The findings from the macroscopic charcoal suggests the most abundant
14 trees were commonly, but not exclusively, exploited. Local woodland was seemingly
15 unaffected by use of burnt mounds during the Neolithic and early Bronze Age based
16 on pollen evidence. A sustained increase in microscopic charcoal coincides with a
17 permanent decrease in alder-carr woodland during a period of near continuous
18 burnt mound use between 1725 and 530 BC and a second phase of high microscopic
19 charcoal values, c. AD 880, corresponds to the end of the penultimate phase of burnt
20 mound use. Evidence from the worked wood indicates that some form of woodland
21 management may have used for hazel from the Neolithic onwards.

22
23 *Keywords:* prehistory, medieval, burnt mounds, pollen, non-pollen palynomorphs,
24 charcoal, woodland management, Northern Ireland.

25
26 **INTRODUCTION**

27 Burnt mounds or '*fulacht fiadh*' are a common feature in the Irish and British
28 archaeological record (Brindley *et al.* 1989; Buckley 1990; Feehan 1991), dating from
29 the Neolithic to the medieval period (Anthony *et al.* 2001; Ó Néill 2009), but their
30 function has been long debated (see Hawkes 2013) and as such they remain an

31 archaeological enigma. Until, recently, few palaeoenvironmental studies have
32 focussed specifically on understanding the function and wider environmental
33 context of burnt mounds (e.g. Innes 1998; Gonzalez *et al.* 2000). Brown *et al.* (2016)
34 summarises some of the recent palaeoenvironmental work done in Ireland and
35 suggests that the most likely function of burnt mounds studied was textile
36 production or activities related to hide cleaning and tanning. Wheeler *et al.* (2016)
37 also used a palaeoecological approach to place a number of Late Neolithic and Early
38 Bronze Age burnt mounds into an environmental context at two locations in County
39 Tyrone, Northern Ireland. Palynological results from their study showed that activity
40 horizons at each site shared similar characteristics: high microscopic charcoal values,
41 repetitive fluctuations in tree and shrub taxa, increased *Sphagnum*, and the presence
42 of non-pollen palynomorphs (NPPs), all of which could be diagnostic indicators of
43 burnt mounds in palynological records. While the data did not allow Wheeler *et al.*
44 (2016) to ascribe a specific function for the burnt mounds, the 'seesaw' pattern of
45 tree and shrub pollen, combined with the macroscopic charcoal data, indicate
46 possible species selection and management of the local woodland species for
47 fuelwood.

48

49 This study focusses upon a burnt mound complex at Ballygawley, where activity
50 dates from the Late Neolithic to the medieval period. We present microfossil data
51 from a new sampling site within the burnt mound complex, together with new
52 charcoal (spanning the mid Bronze Age to the medieval period) and wood
53 technology data (from burnt mound troughs). The aims of the paper are to: (i)
54 reconstruct the vegetation history of a burnt mound complex using pollen, NPPs,

55 microscopic charcoal data and anthracological data; (ii) examine the wood types and
56 technology used in trough construction, specifically in relation to woodland
57 management (iii) identify vegetational changes, particularly on woodlands,
58 associated with the use of the burnt mounds and (iv) compare the results found in
59 this new investigation to those presented in the previous investigation of the same
60 burnt mound complex by Wheeler *et al.* (2016).

61

62 The term 'burnt mounds' is used throughout the paper 'to refer to a site which
63 contains one or more mounds or stone-spreads containing burnt or heated stones
64 with, or without, an associated trough or pit but with no connotation as to function'
65 following Brown *et al.* (2016:3).

66

67 **ARCHAEOLOGY AND SITE DETAILS**

68 Palaeoenvironmental sampling was carried out as part of the archaeological
69 evaluation and excavation strategy associated with the A4/5 road improvement
70 scheme between Dungallen and Ballygawley, Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland,
71 undertaken by Headland Archaeology Ltd (Figure 1).

72

73 The site is located in low lying pasture land several hundred metres east of the
74 Ballygawley Water, on the edge of the floodplain at the foot of higher ground
75 formed by drumlin topography where layers of peat were discovered, overlain by
76 alluvial silts and clays. Prior to excavation the site was well-drained pasture with a
77 diverted stream, which archaeological excavation and the analysis of historical maps

78 suggesting that it is a modern diversion of a natural meandering stream present on
79 site for over c. 5000 years. A number of palaeochannels and alluvial islands that
80 formed a migrating channel system were recorded. Radiocarbon dating has shown
81 that the channels represent the various stages of a migrating channel system, which
82 has generally moved southwards over time, and that the site was used from the Late
83 Neolithic to the medieval period. Within the channel system, 23 burnt mound groups
84 were discovered, together with ten timber and wattle-lined troughs with associated
85 pits and hearths (Bailey 2010; Bamforth *et al.* 2010). A radiocarbon chronology of
86 these features indicates that they were used from c. 3350 BC to AD 1270 (Wheeler *et*
87 *al.* 2016). The earliest radiocarbon date from a burnt mound is dated to 2897-2671
88 BC (GU-17361) and the youngest has been dated to AD 1041-1220 (GU-17375)
89 (Figure 2; Table SI1). Of those burnt mounds radiocarbon-dated, 10 were in use
90 during the Neolithic and Copper Age, 12 during the Bronze Age, 4 in the Iron Age and
91 5 in the medieval period. Some burnt mounds were in use during more than one
92 archaeological period. A hiatus of activity of approximately 900 years occurred
93 between the late Iron Age and early medieval period at the site, yet the overall
94 longevity of activity indicates that people returned in order to use hot stone
95 technology. A monolith of 168 cm depth, named BG-M1, was taken from a section to
96 the east of the majority of excavated burnt mounds (Figures 1 and 3). It is located
97 close to several burnt mounds approximately 20 metres to the north-east and south
98 west: BM9003 is dated to the Late Neolithic and BM9009 has been dated to the
99 Early/Middle Bronze Age (Table SI1). No burnt mound deposits were found at BG-M1
100 so the stratigraphy comprises deposits of peat, alluvial silts and clays. The

101 stratigraphical relationship between BG-M1 and burnt mounds 9003 and 9009 can
102 be seen in Figure 3.

103

104 **METHODS AND MATERIALS**

105

106 **Microfossils**

107 Sub-samples from BG-M1 were taken over 5 cm intervals. Each 1 cm³ sub-sample
108 was prepared for microfossil analyses following Barber (1976) including the
109 additional step of density separation (Nakagawa *et al.* 1998). A sum of 500 total land
110 pollen (TLP) was achieved for all sub-samples. Data are expressed as a percentage of
111 the TLP, with spores and aquatic taxa excluded from the TLP sum. NPPs were also
112 counted during routine pollen analysis (cf. van Geel 1978; van Geel *et al.* 1982/1983,
113 2003) and they are expressed as a percentage of TLP plus total NPPs. Rare types are
114 indicated by a cross (+), where one cross is equal to one pollen grain or NPP.
115 Microscopic charcoal was counted in three fractions (<21µm, 21-50µm, and >50µm).
116 Identification, including cereal-type pollen, was aided by reference keys in Fægri *et*
117 *al.* (1989), Moore *et al.* (1991), Beug (2004) and Reille (1999), and supported by a
118 modern type-slide reference collection housed at the University of Aberdeen. As the
119 separation of *Myrica gale* from *Corylus avellana*-type can be difficult these pollen
120 grain types are classified as *Corylus avellana*-type (Edwards 1981). Plant
121 nomenclature follows Stace (2010). Basic land use designations interpreted from the
122 pollen records follow Brown *et al.* (2007). Loss on Ignition percentages (LOI) were
123 also determined (Schulte and Hopkins 1996).

124

125 **Radiocarbon dating**

126 Selected bulk sediment and charcoal samples were carefully extracted from
127 monolith 1 and submitted to the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory and Poznań
128 radiocarbon laboratory for AMS radiocarbon dating by the authors (Table 1). A total
129 of 62 dates were previously available from archaeological features from Ballygawley
130 (Bailey 2010), including 43 dates from burnt mounds (mainly of macroscopic
131 charcoal fragments), with 11 dates from waterlogged worked wood (Tables SI1-2).

132

133 **Macroscopic charcoal**

134 A maximum of fifty charcoal fragments of a size >0.5mm were selected from each
135 archaeological bulk sample to allow for species identification and to maximise ring
136 curvature data. The standardised quantitative sampling strategy (following Asouti
137 2001 and Wheeler 2007) was deemed appropriate to provide adequate material for
138 inter-feature/inter-site assessments. Standard methods of identification followed
139 Leney and Casteel (1975) with charcoal samples being fractured to reveal the three
140 sectional surfaces (transverse section (TS), tangential longitudinal section (TLS), and
141 radial longitudinal section (RLS) necessary for microscopic wood-type identification
142 to genus. Charcoal fragments were securely positioned onto slides for examination
143 under an incident light microscope at magnification 100x, 200x and 400x.
144 Identifications, assisted by using wood keys, and nomenclature followed
145 Schweingruber (1990) and a modern reference collection. Ring curvature was
146 measured using the key in Marguerie and Hunout (2007): where weak curvature is
147 thought to denote large-sized timbers (trunkwood); medium curvature, medium-
148 sized timbers (large branch wood); and strong curvature representative of small-

149 sized timbers (small branch wood and twigs). When ring curvature could not be
150 observed or genus not identified, an indeterminate result was recorded.

151

152 **Waterlogged Wood**

153 Samples of waterlogged timbers from troughs associated with the burnt mounds
154 were taken during excavation to provide information on the species selected for
155 construction materials, evidence of wood working technology and preservation
156 condition. All of the wood was recorded using specially devised worked wood
157 recording sheets, where measurements were taken of the wood dimensions,
158 together with observations on morphology and construction style. Preservation of
159 worked wood has been graded using the condition scale developed by the Humber
160 Wetlands Project (Van de Noort *et al.* 1995). All of the wood samples were identified
161 using the same methodology as the charcoal identifications; with wood sections
162 being bleached prior to mounting on slides in order to view the wood anatomy.

163

164 **RESULTS**

165 **Radiocarbon Dating**

166 All radiocarbon dates from the BG-M1, charcoal and wood quoted in this paper are
167 listed in Figure 2 and Tables 1, SI1 and SI2, and calibrated using OxCal 4.2 (Bronk
168 Ramsey *et al.* 2013) and IntCal 13 atmospheric curve (Reimer *et al.* 2013). An age-
169 depth model for the BG-M1, constructed using CLAM (Blaauw 2010), is shown in
170 Figure 4.

171

172 Whilst limited in number, the radiocarbon dates associated with the monolith
173 sequence are coherent in terms of chronological integrity. Clearly, more radiocarbon
174 dates would improve the robustness of the CLAM age-depth model (Figure 3),
175 therefore the model should be treated with caution. The top of the monolith is
176 assumed to represent the present day and the uncertainty of the ages, based on the
177 difference between the calibrated minimum to maximum age per centimetre, varies
178 by up to approximately 180 years in the lowermost samples but is much lower, at
179 approximately 90 years per centimetre between 63 and 36 cm. When interpreting
180 sedimentary archives, Telford *et al.* (2004) and Piotrowska *et al.* (2011) consider that
181 all dates and all models are uncertain. This must also be borne in mind when
182 comparing the palaeoenvironmental chronologies with the archaeological ones in
183 this study. Unless stated otherwise all cited ages are calibrated (2σ) and/or derived
184 as best estimates from the CLAM model for the microfossil data.

185

186 The chronological periods used in this paper follow Eogan and Shee Twohig (2011).

187

188 **Stratigraphy**

189 A brief description of the BG-M1 is provided in Table 2. The monolith was taken
190 through a series of intercalated clays, silts and wood peats assumed to be
191 representing phases of acquiescence, channel activity and subsequent infill following
192 the shifting of the channel.

193

194 **Microfossils**

195 The BG-M1 pollen and NPP diagrams were constructed using Tilia.graph (Grimm
196 2004) and are presented in Figures 5, 6 and 7. The diagrams have been divided into
197 local pollen assemblage zones (LPAZs) using CONISS (Grimm 1987). The
198 interpretation of floodplains and terrace depressions is hindered by problems of
199 differential preservation, productivity, transport and source areas. Pollen
200 preservation is variable across all zones (Brown 1997). Whilst the condition of pollen
201 grains showed signs of deterioration, identifiable counts of 500 TLP were achieved
202 throughout the sequence (Delcourt and Delcourt 1980; Jones *et al.* 2007). However,
203 the proportion of unidentifiable grains – classed as degraded, corroded,
204 folded/crumpled and broken - are quite high in the BG-M1 pollen record (Figure 7).
205 Bunting *et al.* (2001) proposed several criteria for determining whether soil pollen
206 samples are reliable or not. They suggested that high levels of indeterminate grains
207 (>45% TLP) in a soil pollen sample would be a reason to reject samples as they
208 suggest any interpretation of that data would be unreliable. Using this sole criterion
209 some of the levels in the BG-M1 pollen record, especially those sampled from
210 minerogenic sediments, would be rejected. Other categories indicate the pollen
211 record from BG-M1 is reliable. The proportions of resistant (thick-walled) taxa are
212 low – indeed grasses (whose walls are thin) are well preserved. Tipping *et al.* (1994)
213 and Bunting *et al.* (2001) also suggest that values of >40% TLP Pteropsida undiff.
214 would compromise the reliability of the pollen record but at BG-M1 the values of this
215 spore are <20% TLP. Tipping *et al.* (1994, 1999) also suggest that the pollen record is
216 possibly unreliable if taxonomic diversity is low but again this is not an issue for BG-
217 M1.

218

219 Brown (1997) adapted Jacobsen and Bradshaw's (1981) model of pollen recruitment
220 for palaeochannels. The model predicts that the majority of pollen will be derived
221 from local sources (70-80% total pollen), with minor contributions from extra local
222 and regional sources. Pollen sources for a peat under a canopy of wet woodland
223 (which characterises BG-M1) are considered to generally reflect local and extra local
224 pollen. Determining the pollen source area for the silts and clays at BG-M1 is more
225 complicated and little research exists. Perhaps the most representative model of the
226 deposits at BG-M1 was proposed by Brown (1997). Based on Tauber's (1965) model
227 for a small oxbow lake with a small stream input, Brown suggests that pollen
228 contributions come from a long distance, regional component as well as a canopy,
229 trunk space, local fringing vegetation and waterborne component (which could
230 include pollen from the whole catchment) but the contribution of each source is not
231 defined. Catchment connectivity can also change through time as a result of human
232 activity and this can lead to a non-linear response to sediment (and presumably
233 pollen) delivery from source areas to a water body (Pittam *et al.* 2006; Turnbull *et*
234 *al.*, 2008). Bonny (1978) and Pennington (1979) suggest that incoming streams
235 provide the major portion of pollen (up to 85%) to a lake. At BG-M1 there are no
236 major or rapid changes in the pollen record as a result of a change in the stratigraphy
237 to suggest these issues have compromised the pollen record. It is unlikely floods
238 have compromised the BG-M1 pollen record. Brown (1985) suggests that despite
239 flood waters containing high concentrations of pollen, an examination of a silt
240 deposited by a flood actually contained very little pollen and most of the pollen ends
241 up in a lake or pond. Therefore, we suggest that the BG-M1 pollen record is a reliable

242 proxy for vegetation change at the site and this is supported by the charcoal and the
243 wood data.

244

245 **INTERPRETATION**

246 **BG-M1: vegetation and land use change**

247 LPAZ BG1pc (162-112 cm) 2760-1765 BC

248 Results from the age-depth model suggests that this LPAZ spans part of the Neolithic
249 and Early Bronze Age (Figures 5-7). Tree and shrub percentages fluctuate around
250 60% TLP and indicate a local pollen source (cf. Martin and Mehringer 1965). High
251 values of *Alnus* and possibly *Corylus avellana*-type pollen, with trace amounts of *Salix*
252 are indicative of a local carr/wet woodland (Waller *et al.* 2005). Woodland,
253 characterised by *Quercus*, *Corylus avellana*-type, with lesser amounts of *Betula* and
254 *Ulmus*, was probably situated on higher ground. *Polypodium* occupied shaded areas
255 beneath the woodland canopy. Rough, wet pasture and/or fens are inferred by the
256 representation of Poaceae, *Plantago lanceolata*, Ranunculaceae, *Rumex acetosa*,
257 Caryophyllaceae, Cyperaceae, *Peucedanum palustre*-type and *Filipendula* (Brown *et*
258 *al.* 2007; Stace 2010).

259

260 Arable activity is suggested with the sporadic occurrence of cereal pollen, albeit in
261 trace amounts. Poaceae grains (>35 µm in diameter) were recorded: these could be
262 wild grasses, such as *Glyceria* and *Elytrigia*, which are found in wet meadows (Stace,
263 2010; Tweddle *et al.* 2005). Microscopic charcoal counts, indicative of burning, was
264 consistently recorded in all fractions. Wood detritus can be inferred from the
265 occurrence of scalariform perforation plates (SPPs) (HdV-114) and grazing is

266 indicated by coprophilous *Cercophora*-type (HdV-112). *Sordaria*-type (HdV-55A)
267 suggests grazing and/or decaying wood. *Glomus* cf. *fasciculatum* chlamydospores
268 (HdV-207) may also represent an inwash of debris as this particular NPP is
269 considered to be a marker for erosion in fluvial/lacustrine contexts (van Geel *et al.*,
270 1983, 2003).

271

272 *Gloeotrichia* (HdV-146), an aquatic pioneer indicative of nutrient poor conditions,
273 which has the ability to fix nitrogen (van Geel, 2005) featured consistently.
274 *Sphagnum* spores and the occurrence of *Tilletia sphagni* (HdV-27) were recorded.
275 Radiocarbon dates from Ballygawley indicate c. 12 burnt mounds were in use
276 between 2897-2671 BC (GU-17361) and 1883-1693 BC (GU-17354) (Table SI1; Figure
277 2) therefore the changes described above could be associated with contemporary
278 burnt mound use.

279

280 LPAZ BG2pc (112-65cm) 1765-830 BC

281 The age-model tentatively places this zone in the Bronze Age. After an initial
282 increase in arboreal pollen at the beginning of the LPAZ, a permanent loss of
283 woodland cover is indicated by the very gradual decline in total arboreal pollen
284 percentages, predominantly *Alnus*, culminating with a sharp decline across the LPAZ
285 BG2pc/BG3pc boundary. This coincides with burnt mound use from c. 1745-1566 BC
286 (GU-18396) to 1108-896 BC (GU-17368) (Figure 2; Table SI1). *Sphagnum*, commonly
287 associated with wet environments, occurs in low amounts, was used as a lining in the
288 burnt mound troughs. Low percentages of HdV-114, which derive from decayed

289 wood were recorded, whilst *Gloeotrichia* (HdV-146) indicative of nutrient poor water
290 was more abundant.

291

292 No cereal-type pollen was identified although the occasional trace of Poaceae
293 >35µm may be representative of cereal-types and/or wild grasses (Dickson 1988;
294 Edwards and Borthwick 2010), possibly in wet meadow/fen or within the floodplain
295 system along with Cyperaceae, *Filipendula* and *Peucedanum palustre*-type. Low
296 amounts of possible pasture (*Plantago lanceolata*, Lactuceae) and/or disturbance
297 indicators (e.g. Chenopodiaceae) were recorded. *Sordaria*-type (HdV-55A) was
298 recorded at the start of the LPAZ suggesting low intensity grazing and/or the
299 presence of decayed wood. *Glomus* cf. *fasciculatum* chlamydospores (HdV-207) may
300 be associated with the inwash of eroded material in the upper part of the LPAZ. A
301 phase of intense burning is suggested by the microscopic charcoal peak at 72 cm.

302

303 LPAZ BG3pc (65-4 cm) 830 BC – ?)

304 The age range of this zone is uncertain given the lack of radiocarbon dates for the
305 top 34 cm, but if sediment deposition was continuous, admittedly unlikely in a
306 floodplain environment, the age-depth model suggests it can be placed from the
307 Late Bronze Age throughout to at least the medieval period. There are three phases
308 of burnt mound use during this period; the tail end of Late Bronze Age activity from
309 774-434 BC (GU-17343) to 756-413 BC (GU-17370); Iron Age trough 9037 at 384-204
310 BC (GU-18393); then an apparent hiatus in use until AD 663-859 (GU-17356) to AD
311 1041-1220 (GU-17375).

312

313 *Alnus* percentages failed to recover to their LPAZ BG2pc values, so total tree pollen
314 percentages remain at approximately 20% TLP, with other tree taxa largely
315 unaffected (Figure 5). A slight increase in *Alnus* and *Corylus avellana* at c 30 cm
316 suggests that some woodland regeneration took place. Wet pasture/marsh
317 indicators were present including Poaceae >35 µm, *Rumex acetosa* and *Plantago*
318 *lanceolata*, Cyperaceae, *Filipendula*, *Galium*-type and *Peucedanum palustre*-type,
319 together with those of disturbed ground, such as Chenopodiaceae, Lactuceae and
320 Apiaceae (Figure 5) (Brown *et al.* 2007). *Agropyron*-type (wheat-grass) is recorded
321 and it is possible that it was used by humans as the leaves, tuber and seeds are
322 edible, and the roots also produce a grey dye (Coon, 1978). Alternatively, species
323 within this genus can be found naturally along river banks in shade (National
324 Museums Northern Ireland, 2010). Coprophilous fungi, *Cercophora*-type (HdV-112)
325 and possibly *Sordaria*-type (HdV-55A), were also recorded from 40 cm onwards
326 suggesting that herbivores grazed nearby (Mighall *et al.* 2008). *Sphagnum*, SPPs
327 (HdV-114) and *Gloeotrichia* (HdV-146) both feature (Figure 7).

328

329 An immediate decline in microscopic charcoal in this zone suggests that natural fires
330 or the use of the burnt mounds subsided briefly, potentially corresponding with a
331 lack of archaeological evidence for their use. Microscopic charcoal rises again to 38
332 cm before falling to lower values which might be connected to burnt mound use
333 (Figure 5). The radiocarbon dates from BG-M1 and the burnt mounds signal renewed
334 activity at c. AD 1020. Although a fall in microscopic charcoal >50 µm fraction during
335 the early stages of LPAZ BG2pc implies less intense burning in the immediate vicinity,
336 more distant burning, most probably within the wider burnt mound complex, is

337 suggested by an increase in the <21 µm and 21-50 µm fractions. This activity
338 coincided with a gradual decline in woodland cover. SPPs (HdV-114) and
339 *Gloeotrichia*-type (HdV-146) were also regularly recorded but at much lower values
340 (Figure 7).

341

342 **Macroscopic charcoal**

343 The charcoal results presented are collated from burnt mounds and associated
344 features (e.g. troughs and pits) dating from the Neolithic to medieval period (see
345 supplementary data) and are shown in Figure 8. Notwithstanding the limitations of
346 the age-depth model, they are of broadly comparable age to the BG-M1 pollen
347 sequence.

348

349 The condition of the charcoal varied from firm and well preserved to poor and
350 friable. In some cases, charcoal fragments were partially vitrified, caused by
351 exposure to temperatures in excess of 800°C (Prior and Alvin 1983). A fraction of the
352 charcoal assemblage was in a poor condition due to orange mineral discolouration, a
353 common feature associated with material from burnt mounds, as waterlogged
354 conditions can result in the charcoal incorporating minerals, such as calcium and
355 iron, which hinders identification (Stuijts 2007). The anthracological information
356 gained from the charcoal analysis provides a complementary data set to the pollen
357 analysis and reveals the presence of insect-pollinated arboreal taxa such as
358 *Maloideae* sp. fruitwoods, *Sorbus* sp. and *Prunus* sp. Trace amounts of *Prunus*-type
359 are regularly recorded in the pollen record as well. However, these taxa are low

360 pollen producers, with their pollen being difficult to detect unless they grow close to
361 the sampling site (Stuijts 2007).

362

363 2153 charcoal fragments were analysed from a total of 26 burnt mounds (Figure 8).
364 Eleven different taxa (together with *Salix/Populus* and indeterminate types) were
365 identified as fuelwood from 1205 charcoal fragments analysed from 10 burnt
366 mounds deposits dating to the Neolithic period; from 2897-2671 BC (GU-17361) to
367 2455-2147 BC (GU-18404). *Alnus glutinosa* is the dominant taxa identified in the
368 wood fuel assemblages from this period with ring curvature indicating that branch
369 wood was largely used together with a relatively, smaller amount of trunk wood.
370 *Corylus avellana* is the second most used tree type for wood fuel (matching their
371 relative abundance in the pollen record), with ring curvature again indicating it is
372 mostly branch wood that is being utilised with some trunk wood. Significant
373 quantities of *Quercus* sp., *Prunus avium* and *Prunus padus* were also identified, with
374 ring curvature showing a similar trend to that of *Alnus* and *Corylus* (Figure 8). Branch
375 wood of *Ulmus* sp., *Prunus spinosa*, *Sorbus* sp., Maloideae sp. (a group including
376 *Pyrus communis*, *Malus sylvestris* and *Crataegus* sp., which cannot be differentiated
377 based on their anatomical composition) and *Salix* sp., while trunk wood of *Betula* sp.
378 was used together with branch wood.

379

380 655 charcoal fragments were analysed from across 11 burnt mounds deposits dating
381 to the Bronze Age, from 1745-1566 BC (GU-18396) to 1108-896 BC (GU-17368). 13
382 taxa are present in the wood fuel assemblage, with *Alnus glutinosa* again the
383 dominant taxon, followed by *Corylus avellana*-type. Charcoal fragments of *Prunus*

384 *avium* and *Prunus spinosa* are also present together with *Quercus* sp., *Betula* sp.,
385 Maloideae sp. and *Salix* sp. *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Populus* and *Ilex aquifolius* are only
386 recorded in the Early Bronze Age assemblage, together with *Ulmus* sp. The ring
387 curvature information for the Bronze Age shows an absence of trunk wood used for
388 fuel with predominantly branch wood indicated as being utilised (Figure 8).

389

390 53 charcoal fragments were analysed from two Iron Age burnt mound deposits,
391 dating from 774-434 BC (GU-17343) to 756-413 BC (GU-17370) (Figure 2). This more
392 limited assemblage in comparison to those of the other periods suggests that small
393 branch wood of 5 taxa. *Alnus glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana*, *Prunus avium* and *Prunus*
394 *spinosa* were the main wood fuel utilised, together with a smaller amount of *Betula*
395 sp (Figure 8).

396

397 The analysed charcoal fragments from the medieval period comprised 240
398 fragments; smaller than the Neolithic and Bronze Age assemblages. Seven taxa were
399 present from 3 burnt mounds, dating between AD 1025-1157 (GU-17349) and AD
400 1041-1220 (GU-17375) (Figure 2). The assemblage is dominated by *Alnus glutinosa*
401 with ring curvature information indicating that small branch wood was the main part
402 of the tree being utilised, although trunk wood and larger branch wood were also
403 used. Significant quantities of small branch wood of *Corylus avellana* and *Salix* sp.
404 are also present, with smaller amounts of small branch wood of *Betula* sp., *Prunus*
405 *avium* and Maloideae sp. together with indeterminate sized wood of *Quercus* sp
406 (Figure 8).

407

408 **Waterlogged Wood**

409 The results of the identifications undertaken from the worked wood recovered from
410 the troughs are presented in Figure 9. 207 items, including planking, revetting and
411 stakes were identified from the 246 items sampled during the excavation; the
412 remainder being deemed too poorly preserved to identify. Details of the troughs,
413 associated radiocarbon dates, construction methods and evidence for wood working
414 are provided in Table SI3.

415

416 The material examined scored between 1 and 4 on the Humber Wetlands condition
417 scale and indicates that there has been a significant loss of data (Table SI3). The
418 majority of the material examined is in a moderate condition, scoring 3, and is
419 suitable for species identification and ring counts, although the primary conversion is
420 likely to be apparent, much of the evidence for tooling may have been lost. Material
421 scoring 1 or 2 is in very poor to poor condition, where no evidence of tooling can be
422 seen and the primary conversion is often difficult to see.

423

424 Three troughs date to the Neolithic period (Figure 9; Table SI3). Wood
425 identifications from the earliest trough (9939) suggest it was constructed mainly
426 from *Alnus glutinosa*, together with Maloideae. *Corylus avellana* was used to
427 construct Trough 9946 and in 9869 with *Alnus glutinosa*. The first recorded use of
428 *Salix/Populus* is also identified from Trough 9946. Trough 9147, dating to the Early
429 Bronze Age, shows the first recorded use of *Quercus* as a construction material with
430 *Alnus glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana* and *Salix/Populus* continuing to be used. There are
431 two troughs dating to the Middle Bronze Age. Trough 9687 is almost exclusively

432 constructed from *Quercus*, with some *Alnus glutinosa*, while *Quercus* is absent in
433 Trough 9812, which has been made from *Alnus glutinosa* and *Corylus avellana*.
434 *Corylus avellana* is the sole construction material from the wattle Trough 9037,
435 which dates to the Iron Age. A mix of construction materials is shown in the three
436 troughs from the medieval period with the first use of *Fraxinus* recorded from
437 Trough 9067, while *Alnus glutinosa* is the main material used, similar to troughs from
438 the Early Bronze Age and Neolithic period, together with *Salix/Populus*. Trough 9590
439 is largely constructed from *Alnus glutinosa* with some *Corylus avellana*. The youngest
440 trough (9578) sees the reappearance of *Quercus* as a construction material, with
441 *Alnus glutinosa* used and possibly *Corylus avellana*.

442

443 There are six different trough construction styles recognised from the ten troughs
444 excavated at Ballygawley; although all troughs have an individual style (Table S13)
445 which might imply different uses (Brown *et al.* 2016). Plank floors and wattle lining
446 are recognised from two Neolithic troughs (9939 and 9869), with one trough (9939)
447 having a double-lined timber floor. The timber flooring of these troughs is largely
448 constructed from *Alnus glutinosa* with some *Corylus avellana* and *Maloideae*. Wattle
449 lined troughs are recorded in the Neolithic (9946; 9869) and Iron Age (9037) with the
450 wattle being constructed from *Corylus avellana*. Plank flooring with wattle
451 revetment is identified from an Early Bronze Age trough (9147) that also has stakes
452 driven through the plank floor. The plank flooring is constructed entirely from
453 *Quercus*, which dendrochronological analysis has shown all comes from the same
454 tree (Bamforth *et al.* 2010). The wattle has been constructed from a mix of *Alnus*
455 *glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana* and *Salix/Populus*. Troughs with timber floors and

456 revetting have been identified from the Middle Bronze Age (9812) and medieval
457 period (9067 and 9590). The Middle Bronze Age trough has planking and stakes of
458 *Alnus glutinosa* and *Corylus avellana*, while the medieval troughs have planking of
459 *Alnus glutinosa*, *Fraxinus*, *Corylus*, *Salix/Populus*, with Trough 9067 having revetting
460 stakes made from *Alnus glutinosa*, *Corylus avellana* and *Fraxinus*. Plank lined troughs
461 with no wattle or revetment have been identified from the Middle Bronze Age
462 (9687) and medieval (9578) periods. The Middle Bronze Age trough is constructed
463 solely from *Quercus*, while the medieval trough is constructed from a mix of *Alnus*,
464 *Corylus* and *Quercus* planks.

465

466 Examination of the construction materials sampled from the troughs points towards
467 evidence for woodland management from the Neolithic period onwards (Table SI3).
468 All of the sampled wattle suggests that the hazel was derived from coppice. Stakes
469 from revetted troughs also had morphological features associated with coppicing or
470 draw felling, although Out *et al.* (2013) recommends caution when inferring
471 coppicing based on ring count/diameter studies of roundwood. Ring counts
472 conducted on 4 rods taken from wattle used in Middle Bronze Age. Trough 9147
473 indicate rods were between 5 and 10 years in age and 9 wattle rods from Iron Age
474 Trough 9037 show the rods were from 2 to 10 years in age. Given the uniform size of
475 the rods, it appears that they were selectively cut from wood of a certain size.

476

477 **DISCUSSION**

478

479 *Neolithic and Copper Age*

480 Radiocarbon dates suggest that ten burnt mounds were in use in the Neolithic period
481 and Copper Age between 2897-2671 BC (GU-17361) to 2455-2147 BC (GU-1840)
482 (Figure 2). The macroscopic charcoal record shows an overwhelming use of alder
483 with largely branch wood being exploited. Trunk wood of hazel is the second most
484 common wood fuel used in the burnt mounds, with lesser amounts of oak, birch,
485 bird- and wild cherry also exploited.

486

487 The pollen from BG-M1 shows a gradual increase in alder during the Neolithic
488 onwards and the removal of branch wood for burnt mound fuel seems to have had
489 no impact on woodland cover (Figure 5), despite 10 burnt mounds operating at this
490 time, which is consistent with the pollen data presented nearby (Wheeler *et al.*,
491 2016). This suggests that exploitation of trees for wood was not of sufficient
492 intensity to register an impact in the pollen record at this time. The worked wood
493 evidence shows the use mainly of alder and hazel for trough construction (Figure 9).
494 There are fluctuations in the pollen record for hazel that may relate to the removal
495 of branches or the trees, or result from natural fluctuations. The impact on other
496 trees within the landscape, such as oak, cherry, birch and elm trees, is harder to
497 discern given their paucity in the pollen diagram but the pollen and charcoal records
498 suggests evidence of their local presence and use.

499

500 The woodworking recorded from the Neolithic structures is all of a basic nature.
501 Timbers have been converted using simple, unmodified splits. Items have been
502 trimmed to length using an edged tool, presumably a hafted stone axe (likely also
503 used in the felling of trees). There is no evidence for complex carpentry in the form

504 of either more complex conversions, jointing or finishing (Table S13). The structures
505 have not been keyed together in any way. As alder and hazel were the dominant
506 arboreal taxa in the pollen record, the material in the burnt mounds were probably
507 sourced locally (cf. Ludemann *et al.* 2004; Ludemann 2009). There is no evidence for
508 woodworking debris on site, raising the possibility that the timbers may have been
509 fashioned to some extent prior to trough construction.

510

511 *Bronze Age*

512 The charcoal data shows a more varied use of tree types for fuel during the Bronze
513 Age with ash, poplar and holly being recorded for the first time (mainly in the Early
514 Bronze Age). All the charcoal analysed is indicative of branch wood with no evidence
515 of any trunk wood being used, which suggests a carefully managed strategy for the
516 supply of fuel wood. However, the total arboreal pollen percentages decline during
517 the Bronze Age (start of LPAZ BG2pc), largely caused by decreasing *Alnus* until 530
518 BC, a pattern not observed in the other arboreal pollen taxa (Figure 5) and in the
519 other pollen record at Ballygawley (Wheeler *et al.*, 2016). A more rapid decline in
520 *Alnus* coincides with a sustained increase in microscopic charcoal (peaks at 1030 BC;
521 LPAZ BG2pc, 72 cm) before returning to lower values by 530 BC.

522

523 Despite hazel being widely utilised for fuel in the Bronze Age, no major decline is
524 evident at BG-M1. Willow is also consistently used in the construction of the troughs
525 but it is under-represented in the pollen diagram being insect pollinated, so impact
526 on this taxon is harder to discern. Cherry trees continue to be frequently utilised.
527 Brown *et al.* (2016) concluded that hide production and tanning was the most

528 probable use for *fulacht fiadh*, and, if so, cherry could have been used for its aroma
529 to mask the smells of butchery. 16 flint scrapers and two bone points indicative of
530 butchery practices and hide preparation were found at the site. Butchery is also
531 indicated by the faunal bone assemblage, which consists of cattle, pig and
532 sheep/goat, largely contains parts associated with slaughter (skull, mandible, lower
533 leg bones) and primary butchery (upper leg bones) (Tourunen 2009), although the
534 lack of blades recovered suggests meat preparation was not taking place (see Lochrie
535 in Bailey 2010).

536

537 The worked wood identifications show an increase in the use of oak during this
538 period, including trough 9687 that was constructed entirely from one oak trunk
539 (Figure 9, Table S13). Trough 9147 was also constructed from oak and
540 dendrochronological analysis cross-matched 5 of the timbers and gave a felling date
541 of 1590 BC (Bamforth *et al.* 2010). The use of elm for fuel is only seen in the Early
542 Bronze Age within burnt mound BM9373 dated to 1746-1535 BC (GU-17363). *Ulmus*
543 (elm) pollen only occurs in trace amounts within both pollen diagrams (Figure 5 and
544 Wheeler *et al.* 2016) suggesting that elm was a minor constituent of any local
545 woodland.

546

547 There seems little qualitative difference in the woodworking between the Neolithic
548 and Early Bronze Age/Middle Bronze Age assemblages, which are again fairly basic
549 with a lack of finishing, jointing or other complex carpentry observed across all
550 troughs (Table S13). However, the timbers of oak within these assemblages are seen

551 to be cleaved in a more complex manner and from larger trees and the introduction
552 of metal tools would have made the felling of large oaks an easier task.

553

554 The Late Bronze Age sees a change in woodworking technology and a broader shift in
555 the selection of raw material – which matches the charcoal evidence for wider fuel
556 resource. There is a significant variation in both size and form, from the smaller, oval
557 earlier troughs to larger, rectangular troughs. However, there is still some parity in
558 depth, with the troughs from this period varying between 0.15 m and 0.30 m deep.
559 In terms of revetting, there was a shift away from wattle-lined troughs to plank-
560 revetted troughs. Structure C9189 has plank-revetted sides, held in place by
561 retaining stakes. The base of this trough was lined with large, split planks (Table S13).

562

563 Trough 9764 is lined with a single oak timber, the largest encountered on site,
564 measuring 3400 mm x 980 mm x 100 mm. This tangentially split timber was lying
565 bark face down, split face up. Cleaving timbers of this size requires not only great
566 skill, but also access to straight grained, knot free, high quality timber. This shift in
567 raw material selection may well represent a change in resource exploitation away
568 from smaller, understorey material possibly within the alder carr-woodland towards
569 larger, stands of oak woodland. Although both taxa are represented in the pollen
570 diagram, there are only minor fluctuations in their percentages.

571

572 *Iron Age*

573 The charcoal data from two burnt mounds dated to between 774-434 BC (GU-17343)
574 and 756-413 BC (GU-17370) show a limited fuel assemblage of alder, hazel,

575 blackthorn and wild cherry, together with some birch (Figure 8). The fuel assemblage
576 was branch wood suggesting a continuity of fuel selection. There is an overall decline
577 in the use of alder from the Middle Bronze Age through to the Iron Age (Figure 8):
578 this coincides with a permanent decline in *Alnus* pollen percentages across the late
579 Bronze Age/early Iron Age transition (base of LPAZ BG3pc). Brown *et al.* (2016)
580 suggest the clearing of wet woodland surrounding burnt mounds for fuel resources
581 commonly took place.

582

583 Apart from an increase in Poaceae and the first occurrence of Lactuceae, there is
584 little response from the non-arboreal taxa normally associated with human activity
585 or disturbance during the decline of *Alnus*. Microscopic charcoal values showed a
586 rise across all fractions as tree pollen percentages decrease. Burnt mounds and
587 hearth use seems to be the most likely explanation but it is not clear whether this
588 represents a fire deliberately set by humans or a natural occurrence (cf. Chambers,
589 1993) but Edwards *et al.* (2005) argue that sustained high levels were more likely to
590 be the result of humans.

591

592 Hazel is still well represented in the pollen record and seemed to maintain its
593 presence in the landscape during the Iron Age. This might be the product of some
594 form of deliberate management but it is hard to tell from pollen data alone (Waller
595 *et al.* 2012). The best evidence for potential woodland management came from the
596 hazel rods used to construct Trough 9037; dated to 384-204 BC (GU-18393) (see
597 Table SI3 and Figures 9, 10). The most frequent ring count was four and the most
598 frequent diameter range was from 10 mm to 15 mm. The variation in diameters was

599 smaller than in ring counts from hazel stakes used in other troughs. Taken together,
600 this evidence strongly suggests either coppicing or selective cutting of wood based
601 on size. It is possible for a coppice stool to have stems of similar size but with very
602 different numbers of rings due to some shoots being overshadowed by older, taller
603 shoots (O'Sullivan 1996). This may have been the case in this feature. This trough is
604 perhaps the most enigmatic at Ballygawley with a woven wattle hazel frame
605 underlined with *Sphagnum*. The use of moss to line both the base of the trough and
606 the upstanding wattle sides is a departure from the typical trough construction on
607 site and it may indicate a different use compared to the other troughs. It is possible
608 that the moss may have acted as a filter for water upwelling into the trough
609 providing a relatively clean water supply. The requirement for screening of the
610 trough by the high sides and the greater depth of this trough both suggest rather
611 different activities going on here from the other burnt mounds.

612

613 The majority of the rods used in all trough construction is indicative of harvesting the
614 locally available wood mostly between four and seven years old and with diameters
615 from 10 mm to 30 mm. The wood could have been harvested in a one off operation,
616 with similar sized and aged wood selected in a single event (Morgan 1983). If
617 coppicing had taken place, the patterning of the ring counts suggests it was similar to
618 modern 'simple' or 'short rotation' coppice where the wood is harvested on
619 rotations of less than ten years producing wood for hurdles, spars and wicker work
620 (Evans 1984).

621

622 *Medieval period*

623 After an apparent hiatus in burnt mounds use between the Late Iron Age and Early
624 Christian period (c. 200 BC to AD 700) (Wheeler *et al.* 2016), activity resumed with
625 BM9025 at AD 663-859 (GU-17356) (Figure 2). Unfortunately, there is no charcoal
626 evidence available for this burnt mound. There is charcoal data available for later
627 burnt mounds BM9032, BM9518 and BM9575; used between AD 1025-1157 (GU-
628 17349) to AD 1041-1220 (GU-17375). Charcoal evidence shows an increase in the use
629 of alder with small branch wood of this tree-type being the main fuel source (Figure
630 8), while trunk wood of alder was also used for fuel at BM9032 (in use between AD
631 1025-1157 (GU-17349) and AD 1033-1204 (GU-17366)). Only branch wood was used
632 for fuel at the other burnt mounds during this period. Hazel and willow are also
633 represented in significant amounts, while oak and cherry are utilised more sparsely
634 in this period. The macroscopic charcoal indicates that it is still branch wood being
635 sought for fuel, although there is evidence for alder trunkwood being utilised. Any
636 impact on woodland is not that evident in the pollen diagram (Figure 5) but the
637 activity initially coincides with a peak in microscopic charcoal (40 cm) before it
638 declined (Figure 5). The trough wood identifications (Figure 9) also show an
639 increased use of alder, while ash was also used within Trough 9087 (associated with
640 BM9190) despite *Fraxinus* only being represented as a rare taxon in the pollen
641 diagram.

642

643 The medieval troughs are generally slightly smaller than later prehistoric structures,
644 although there is some parity in depth, with troughs ranging from 0.22 to 0.35 m
645 deep. The bases of all three troughs are lined with split planks whilst revetting
646 survived in two troughs. Trough 9087 is revetted by horizontal planks laid on edge

647 and held in place by retaining stakes, similar to the Middle Bronze Age/Late Bronze
648 Age trough 9819. The timbers from trough 9087 have the long, flat facets that
649 suggest the use of an iron tool (Coles *et al.* 1978; Sands 1997). 18 tool marks were
650 recorded from 16 pieces of wood (6.6% of total wood assemblage), which seems to
651 be a somewhat low incidence of tool marks given that 117 items (48.1%) show
652 evidence of having been trimmed with an edged tool. Trough 9590 represents a
653 new form of revetting, with vertically set split planks. As with the Middle Bronze
654 Age/Late Bronze Age assemblage, there is no evidence for wattle work from this
655 phase.

656

657 *Placing burnt mounds into a wider landscape setting*

658

659 The pollen diagrams (BG-M1 and in Wheeler *et al.* 2016) indicate that the burnt
660 mounds were utilised in at least partially open conditions, possibly at the woodland
661 edge. The herbaceous pollen assemblages suggest these openings comprised fen
662 and/or wet pasture. Taxa associated with disturbance and pasture are recorded in
663 both pollen assemblages from Ballgawley, albeit in trace amounts, during the period
664 of burnt mound use. The occurrence of coprophilous fungal spores also suggests
665 animals were present locally except between 110 BC and AD 450 reinforcing
666 Wheeler *et al.*'s (2016) assertion that burnt mounds were associated with a pastoral
667 economy for the most part since the Neolithic period. Low level grazing has been
668 consistently recorded at other burnt mound locations (see Brown *et al.*, 2016).

669

670 Based on the radiocarbon dates, burnt mound use appears to have continued
671 throughout the Bronze Age at Ballygawley, with little evidence of a cessation of
672 activity between the 14 and 11th centuries BC (Ó Néill 2005; Plunkett, 2009) and
673 archaeological finds elsewhere in the County attest to a human presence with
674 metalwork hoards e.g. a small Bishopsland hoard at Skelly, a Co Tyrone Hoard
675 (Eogan, 1983) and settlements e.g. Ballynagilly, Killymoon, Lough Eskragh (Williams
676 and Pilcher, 1978; Pilcher and Smith, 1979; Hurl, 1995; Plunkett, 2009).

677

678 Overall, the evidence for human activity in the palynological records is mute,
679 especially given the close proximity of the archaeology at Ballygawley. Charred
680 cereal grain of naked barley has been radiocarbon dated to 1607-1417 BC (GU-
681 17364) associated with BM9009 (Figure 2; Table SI1) suggesting that some
682 agriculture was taking place in the wider landscape during the Neolithic and Bronze
683 Age. At Ballygawley, cereal-type pollen is found at both sites: in this study around
684 2820 to 2000 BC and of indeterminate age in the other pollen diagram presented in
685 Wheeler *et al.* (2016). The poor dispersal ability of large grasses and cereal pollen,
686 combined with relatively dense woodland, might have dampened any cultivation
687 signal in the pollen record (Vuorela 1973; Tweddle *et al.* 2005).

688

689 There is little change in woodland cover until 1725 BC and more rapidly from c. 900
690 BC when there is evidence of clearance, possibly by felling, most probably for
691 pasture (but the pollen signal is still weak). Plunkett (2009) suggests that the Middle
692 Bronze Age is characterised by varying degrees of intensity in mixed farming
693 alongside the increased number of archaeological features, such as burnt mounds,

694 but no definite intensification of farming can be discerned in the pollen records,
695 including at Ballygawley. Evidence for farming was also observed in the pollen record
696 from Slieve Gallion from 3300 BC onwards (Pilcher, 1973). Some woodland
697 regeneration is seen at some sites including Beaghmore, Co Tyrone (Pilcher, 1969),
698 during the Middle to -Late Bronze Age but elsewhere human activity continues
699 uninterrupted, including at Claraghmore (Plunkett, 2009).

700

701 The permanent removal of alder at Ballygawley (start of LPAZ BG3pc) created a more
702 open landscape in the immediate vicinity of the site from the early Iron Age onwards
703 with evidence for pastoral activities. Evidence of carr woodland regeneration is seen
704 in the uppermost 30 cm after the decline in microscopic charcoal c. AD 880-1145
705 which probably coincides with the last phases of burnt mound use at the site. This
706 compares favourably with the current patchwork of active and abandoned farmland,
707 together with scrub woodland described by Pilcher and Larmour (1982) at
708 Meenadoan Nature Reserve in Co Tyrone.

709

710 The pollen record probably lacks the temporal and spatial sensitivity to detect more
711 specific periods of burnt mound use in a floodplain context despite being relatively
712 close (within tens of metres) to these kind of features. This may be the result of
713 several factors. The pollen sampling resolution may be insufficient to detect a strong
714 signal of burnt mound use or its impact, especially in the non-arboreal pollen record,
715 as the individual pollen samples could represent up to 200 years thereby diluting a
716 palynological response from sites that could have been used only occasionally or for
717 short periods of time. The time interval between pollen samples could also

718 represent up to 125 years at BG-M1 could simply be too great to fully capture the
719 true extent of burnt mound use at Ballgawley, especially as the scale and intensity of
720 burnt mound use has not been fully established as only part of the site was
721 excavated. More sites may be buried beneath the floodplain deposits. While BG-M1
722 and those presented in Wheeler et al (2016) provide an excellent broad-scale picture
723 of environmental and vegetational changes in an area of known burnt mound use,
724 they still may lack, or show only weakly, the anthropogenic signature expected in
725 deposits very close to an archaeological site (Edwards 1991; Amorosi et al 1998;
726 Erlendsson et al. 2006). The results from this investigation suggest it would be very
727 difficult to knowingly detect burnt mound use using 'off-site' palynological records,
728 especially if the archaeological evidence was absent. In this sense, and despite the
729 relative wealth of burnt mounds found at Ballgawley, the non-arboreal pollen
730 records appear to only represent small-scale activity which implies the burnt mounds
731 had little impact, except possibly on alder-carr, and that fine resolution pollen
732 analysis may be the only viable way to generate palynological reconstructions of
733 their impact (cf. Davies and Tipping, 2004).

734

735 Wheeler *et al.* (2016) suggested that a common set of features in the pollen and NPP
736 records at both sites which appear to be associated with the burnt material were
737 possibly diagnostic. These were: i) regular fluctuations in the pollen of the tree and
738 shrub taxa, thought to be indicative of woodland management, which are not seen
739 in the record presented here even though there is evidence for coppicing in the
740 wood data, ii) heightened values cross-fraction micro-charcoal which are observed
741 here and do correlate with phases of burnt mounds use but not all of them, iii)

742 greater presence of wood detritus typified by increased values of NPPs, especially
743 HdV-114. It is present in the BG-M1 pollen diagram but it is not always associated
744 with high microscopic charcoal values, and neither is *Sordaria*-type (HdV-55A) which
745 has been used as an indicator of dead wood or dung, iv), herbivore presence. The
746 only obligate dung spore recorded was *Cercophora*-type in trace amounts at BG-M1
747 and out with the main phase of burning and possible burnt mound use. *Sordaria*-
748 type is recorded in higher percentages but is largely absent from between 90 and 50
749 cm and v), elevated eutrophy, of which there is no substantive evidence in the NPP
750 data presented here. Many of these supposed indicators appear, therefore, to be
751 spatially restricted, as BG-M1 was through a palaeochannel sequence whereas
752 monolith 2 (presented in Wheeler *et al.* 2016; Figure 1) was sampled through a burnt
753 mound deposit located tens of metres away from BG-M1.

754

755 **CONCLUSIONS**

- 756 1. The combination of charcoal, wood working evidence and pollen data have
757 led to an increased understanding of woodland resource use at burnt mound
758 sites.
- 759 2. The location of Ballygawley was a place in the landscape where burnt mound
760 use continued for millennia.
- 761 3. The findings from macroscopic charcoal suggests the most abundant trees -
762 alder and hazel- were most exploited.
- 763 4. Two periods of high microscopic charcoal were identified. The first coincides
764 with a permanent decrease in alder-carr woodland during a period of near
765 continuous burnt mound use between 1725 and 530 BC and a second phase

766 occurs at approximately AD 880 and corresponds to the end of the
767 penultimate phase of burnt mound use.

768 5. Notwithstanding the small sample size, evidence from the worked wood
769 (rods and wattling) suggests that some form of woodland management or
770 selection was used for hazel from the Neolithic onwards.

771 6. A multi-proxy approach is advocated for understanding the relationship
772 between woodland, wood and burnt mound use and could be applied to
773 other archaeological such as mining and metallurgical sites.

774

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784

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1128 **Figure captions**

1129 **Figure 1** Location of study sites (a) in Northern Ireland; (b) in Co Tyrone, Northern
1130 Ireland; (c) excavation site at Ballygawley showing the palaeochannels and burnt
1131 mound sites and BG-M1. Monolith 2 for the sampling site presented in Wheeler *et*
1132 *al.* (2016). The black lines mark the limits of the archaeological excavation.

1133

1134 **Figure 2** Plot of calibrated radiocarbon dates from the burnt mounds at Ballgawley,
1135 Co. Tyrone using Oxcal.

1136

1137 **Figure 3** Stratigraphic section of the sediments in the floodplain showing the location
1138 of burnt mounds 9003 and 9009, and monolith BG-M1. The section is divided into
1139 sections for presentation but runs continuously from the top section shown to the
1140 bottom and from left to right. The position of section (D-D) is shown on Figure 1.

1141

1142 **Figure 4** Age depth graph for BG-M1 using Clam (interpolation model) (Blaauw,
1143 2010).

1144

1145 **Figure 5** Percentage pollen diagram of selected trees, shrubs and microscopic
1146 charcoal from BG-M1. Rare types are indicated by a cross (+), where one cross is
1147 equal to one pollen grain. Stratigraphy based on Troels-Smith (1955).

1148

1149 **Figure 6** Percentage pollen diagram of selected dwarf shrubs and herbs from BG-M1,
1150 Co. Tyrone. Conventions are as in Figure 4.

1151

1152 **Figure 7** Percentage diagram of selected spores and NPPs from BG-M1. Conventions
1153 are as in Figure 4.

1154

1155 **Figure 8** Charcoal identification and ring curvature results from burnt mounds at
1156 Ballygawley expressed as number of fragments.

1157

1158 **Figure 9** Wood Identification results from worked wood recovered from Burnt
1159 Mound Troughs.

1160

1161 **Figure 10** Iron Age trough (BM9037) showing wattle from Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone.

1162

1163 **Table 1** Radiocarbon dates from BG-M1.

1164

1165 **Table 2** Stratigraphy of BG-M1.

1166

1167 **Supplementary Table 1** Radiocarbon chronology of the burnt mounds from
1168 Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone. Radiocarbon dates have been calibrated using OxCal 4.1

1169 (Bronk Ramsey, 2009a) to 93.4% probability using IntCal04 (Bronk Ramsey, 2009b).

1170 All calibrated dates are referred to in calibrated years AD/BC.

1171

1172 **Supplementary Table 2.** Radiocarbon chronology of the wood recovered from

1173 Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone. Radiocarbon dates have been calibrated using OxCal 4.1

1174 (Bronk Ramsey, 2009a) to 93.4% probability using IntCal04 (Bronk Ramsey, 2009b).

1175 All calibrated dates are referred to in calibrated years AD/BC.

1176

1177 **Supplementary Table 3.** Radiocarbon chronology of the worked wood recovered

1178 from the burnt mounds at Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone. Radiocarbon dates have been

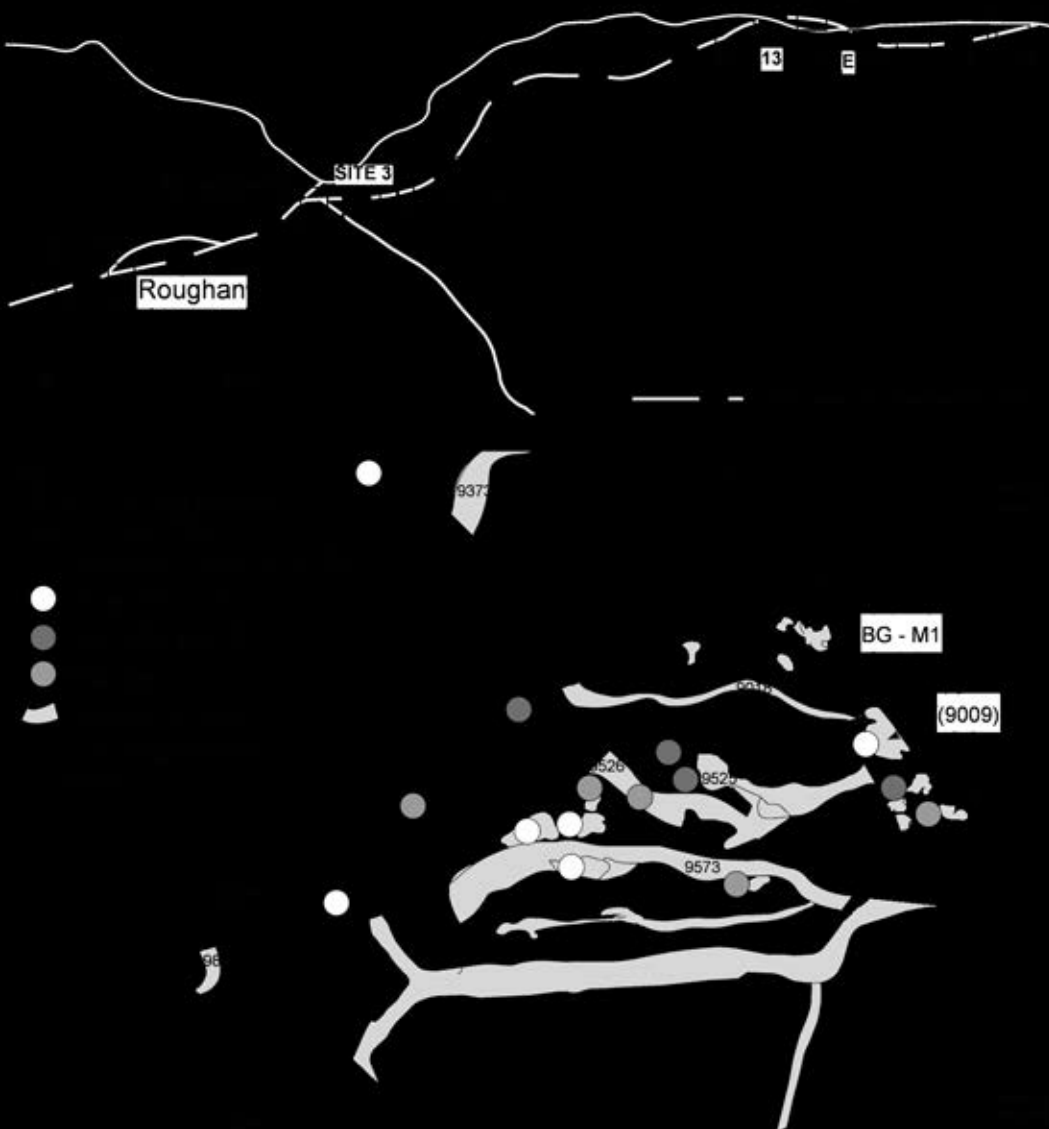
1179 calibrated using OxCal 4.1 (Bronk Ramsey, 2009a) to 93.4% probability using IntCal04

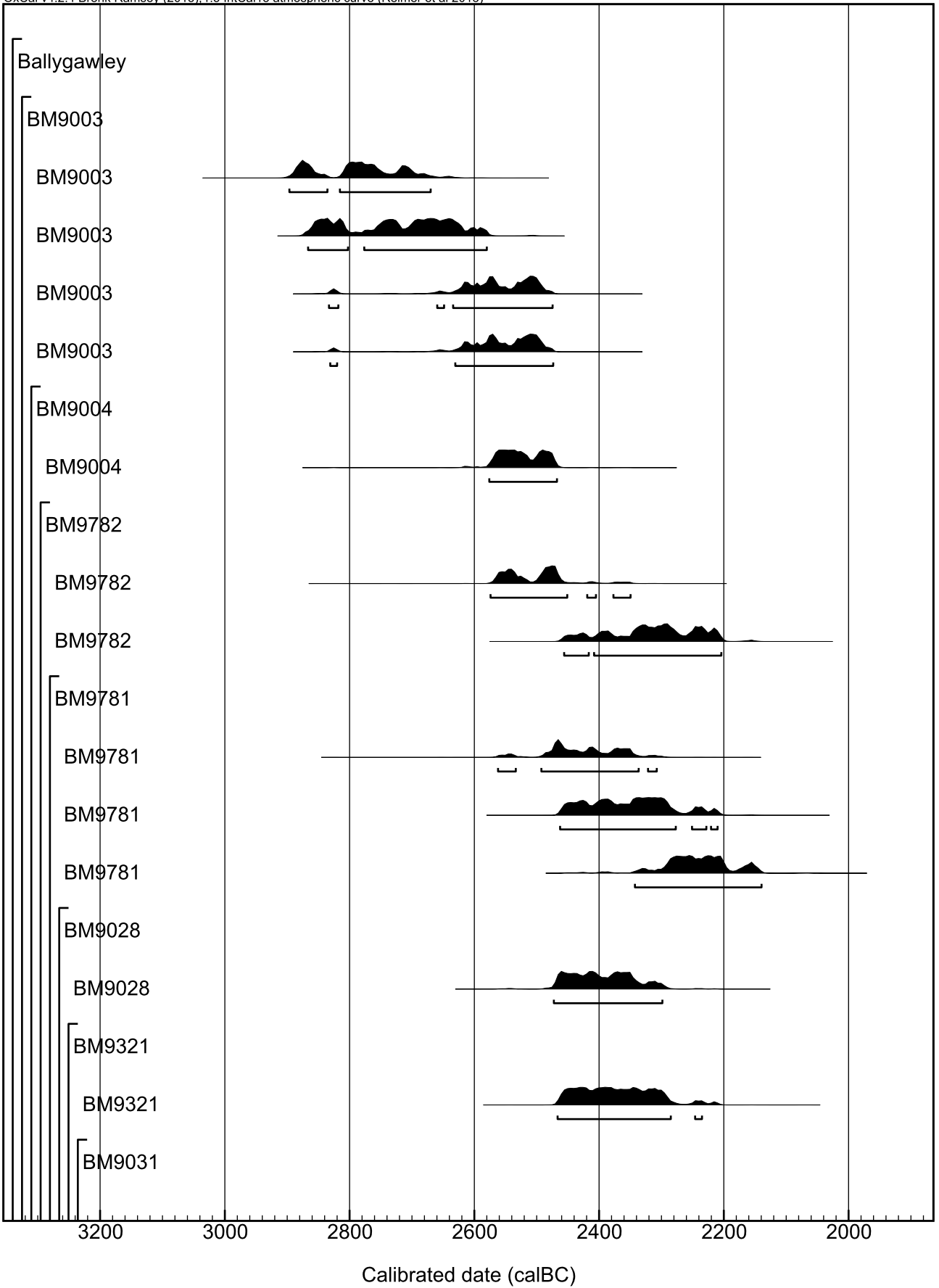
1180 (Bronk Ramsey, 2009b). All calibrated dates are referred to in calibrated years

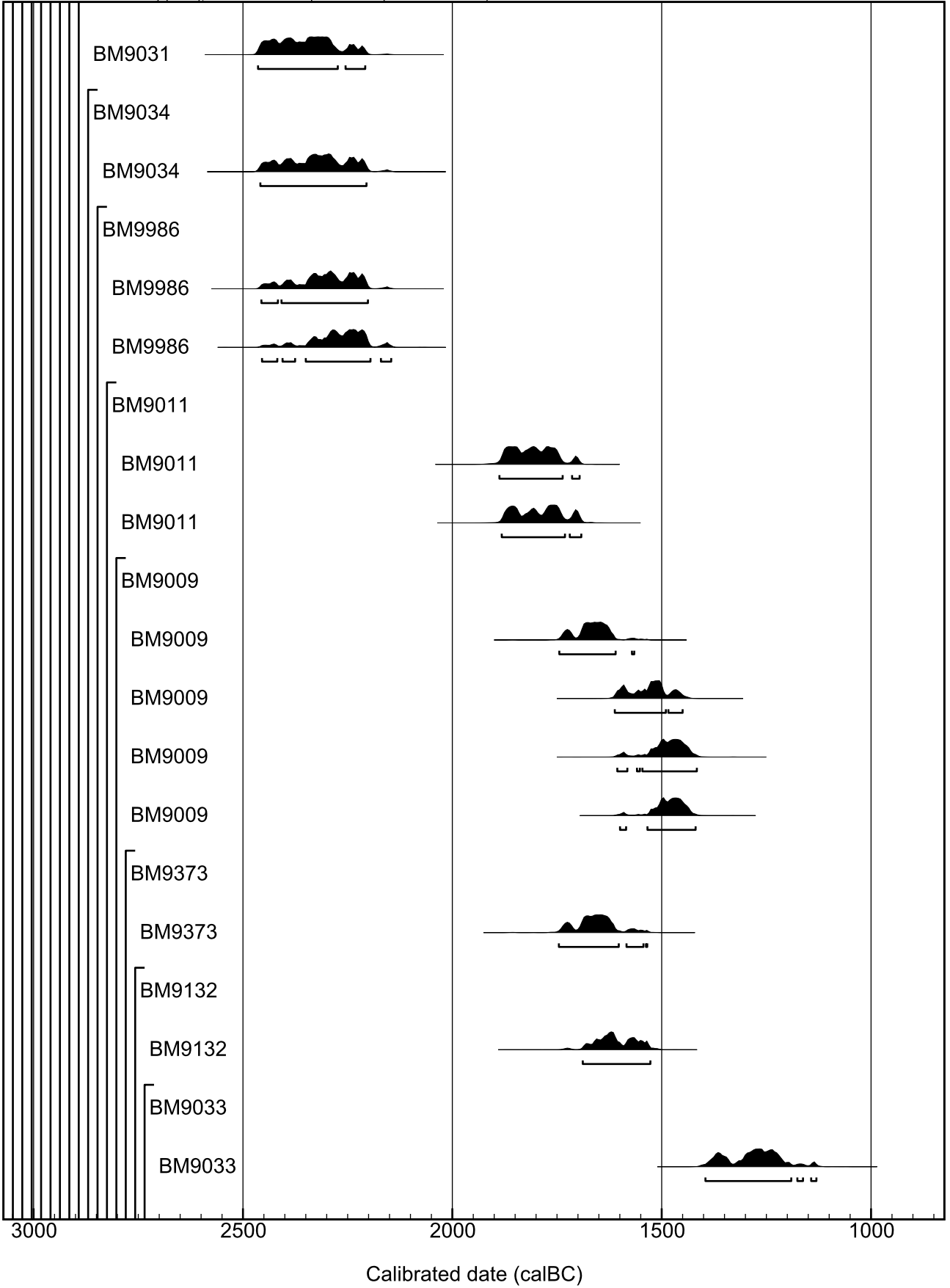
1181 AD/BC.

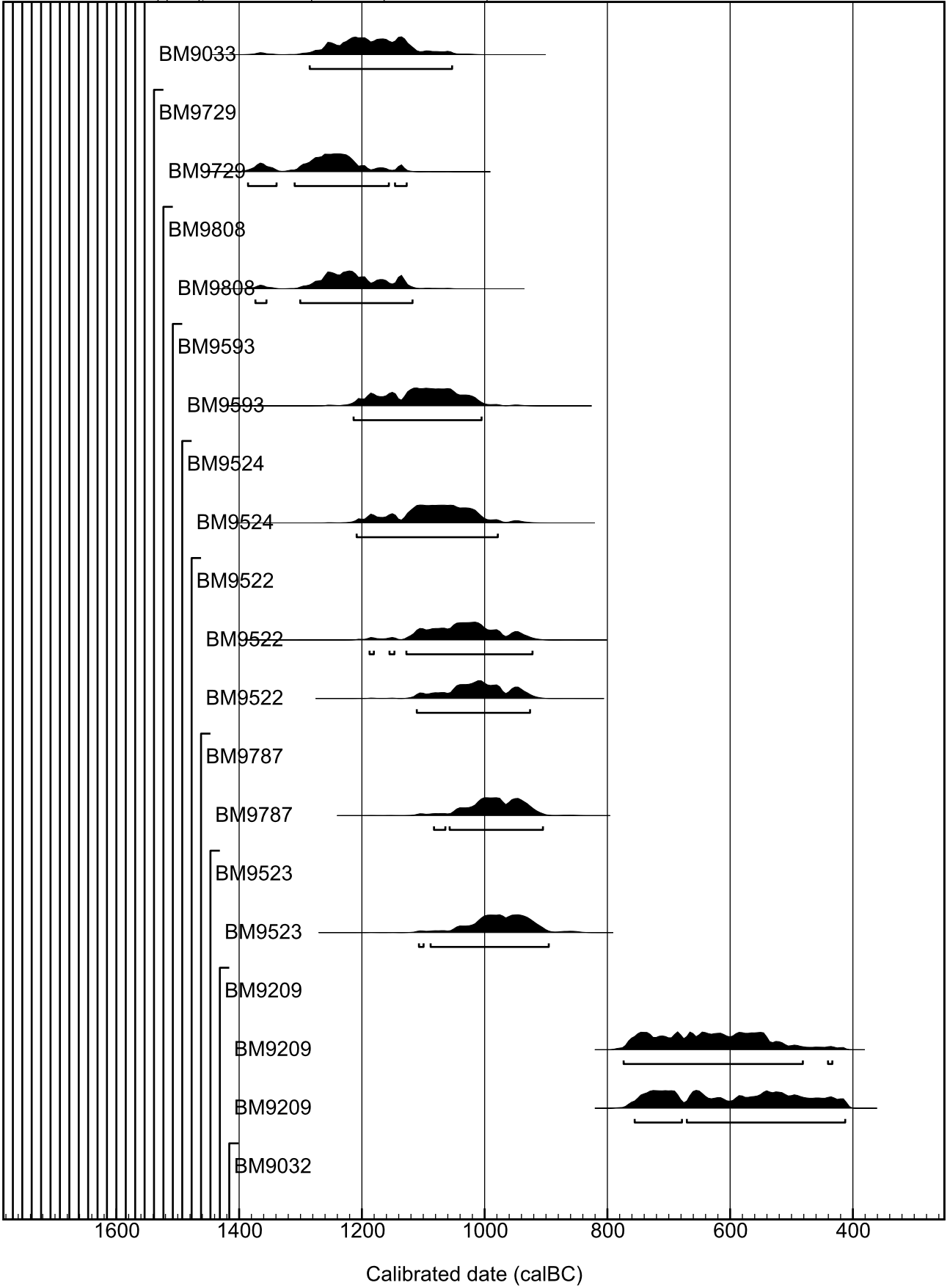


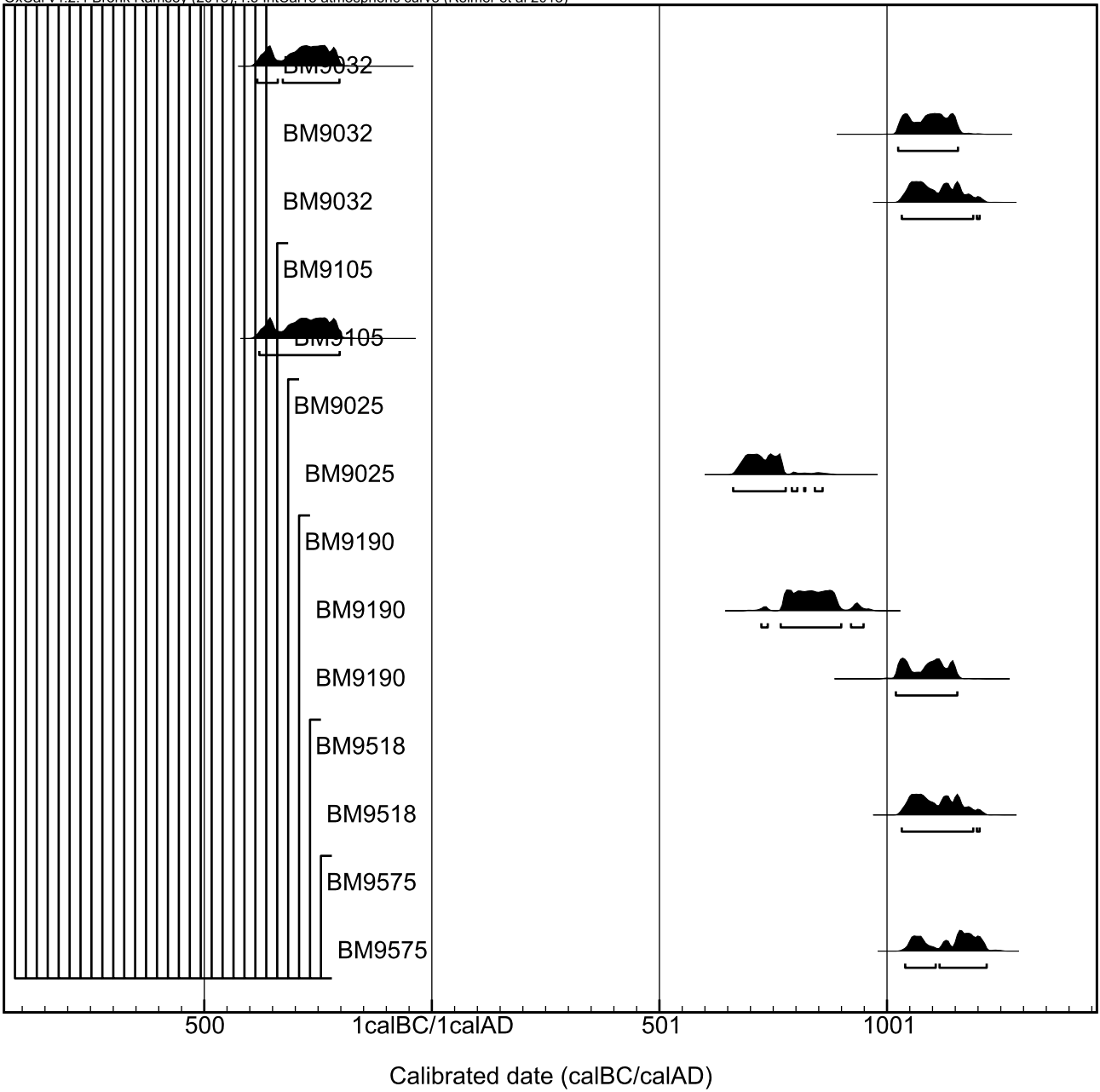
Co. Tyrone

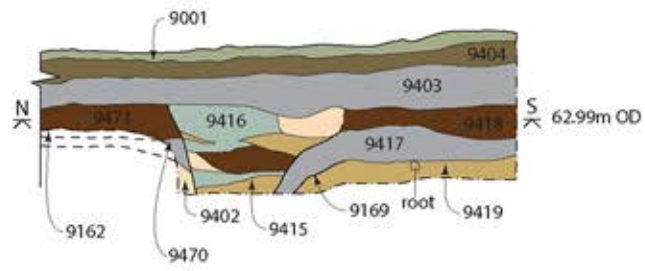
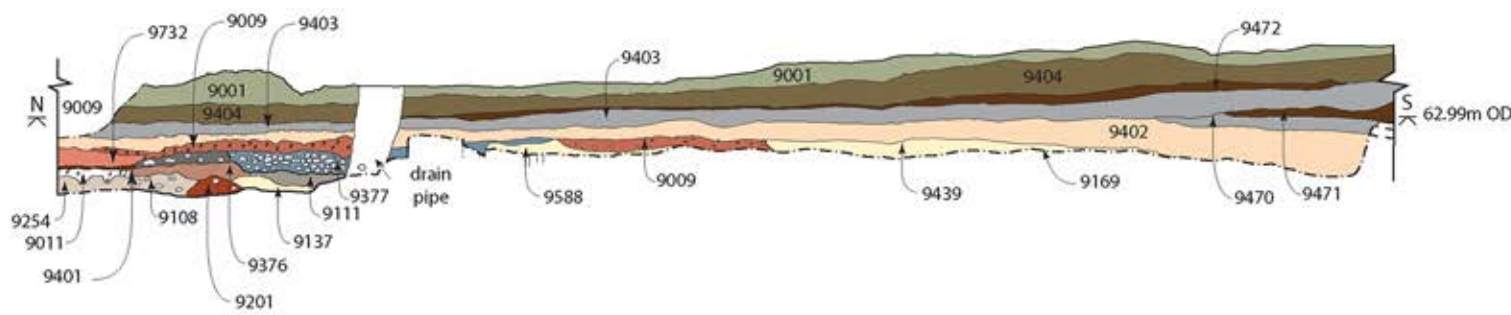
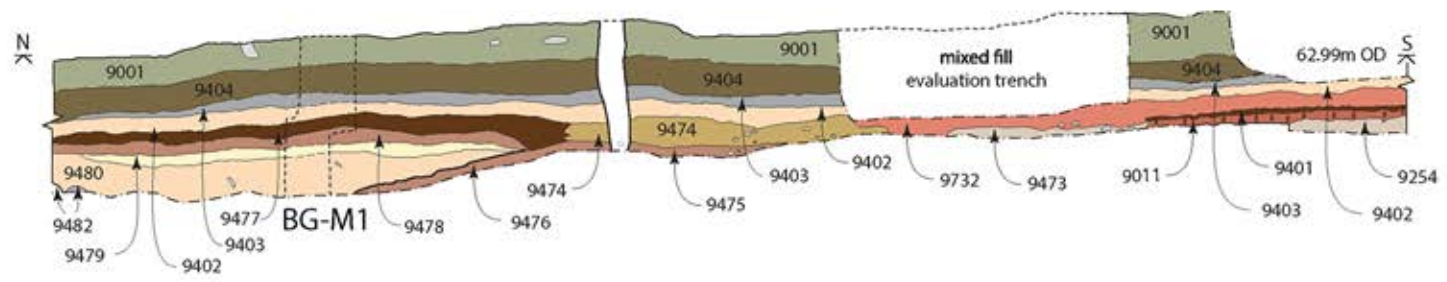
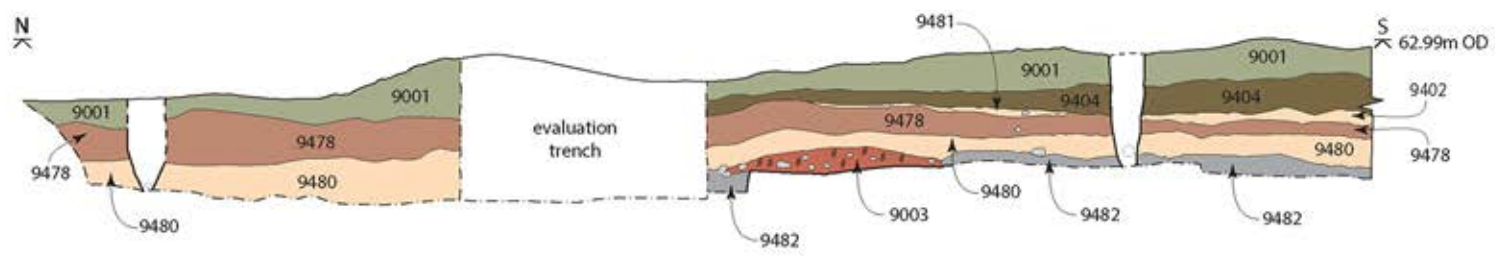








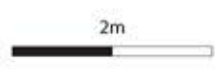


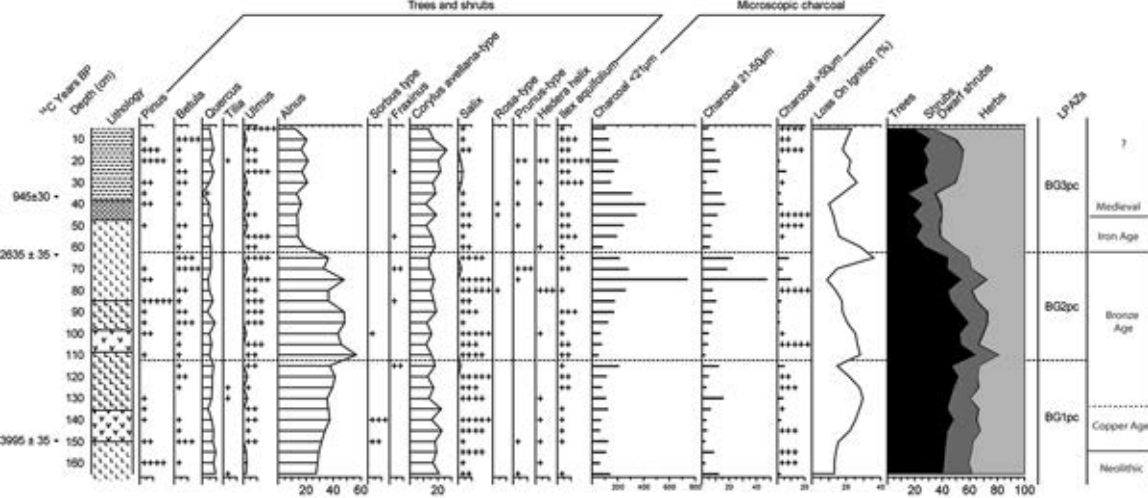


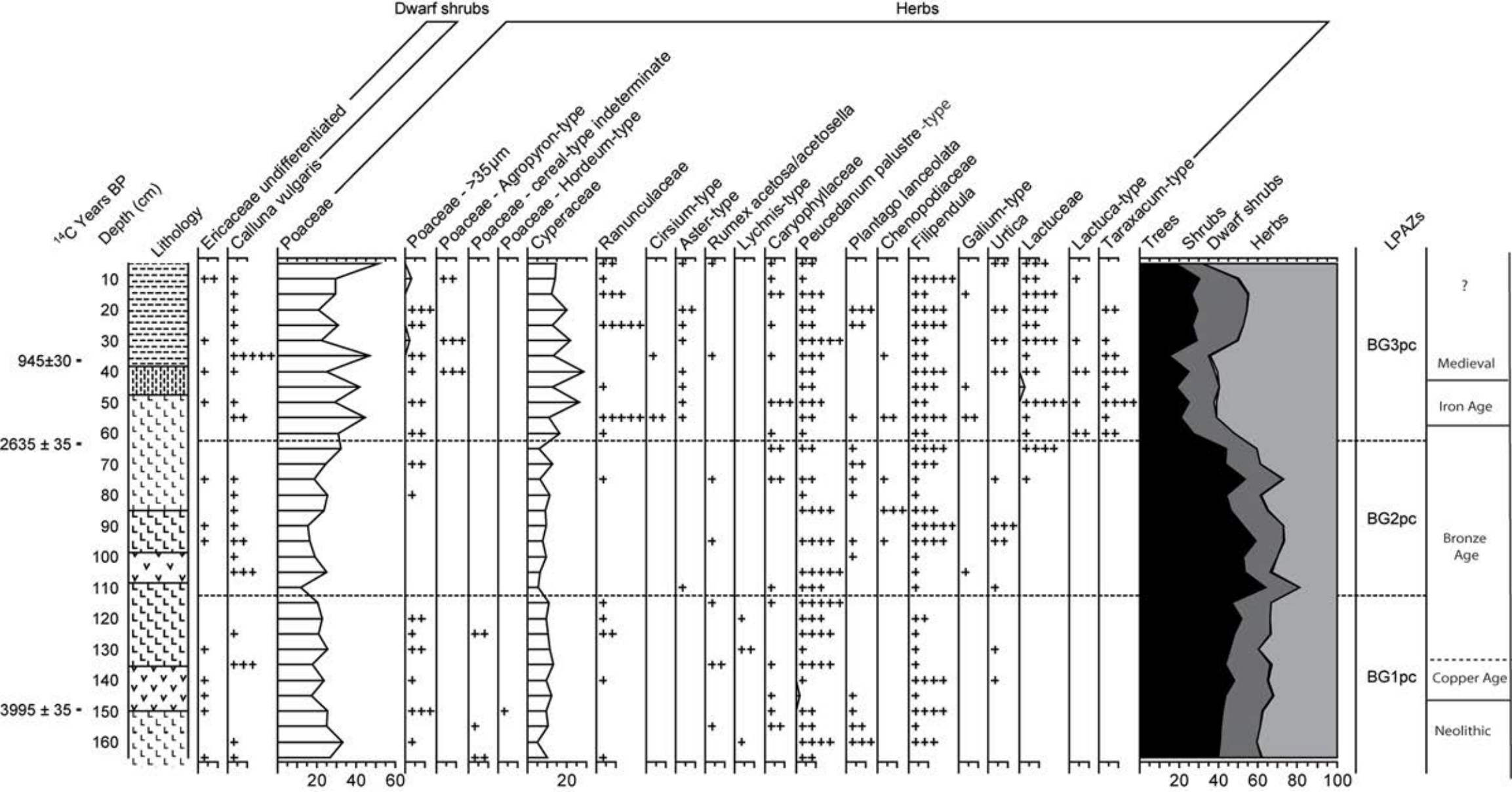
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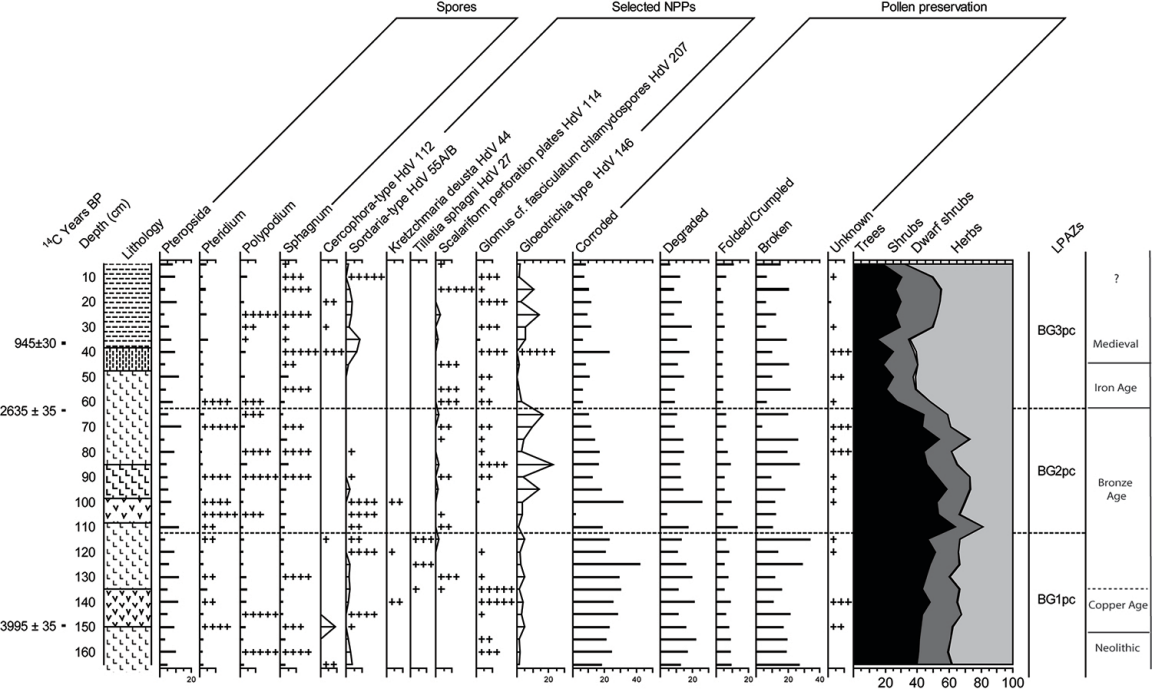
- brown grey peaty caly
- brown peaty clay
- brown silty clay
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- grey clay
- grey peaty clay
- grey sandy clay
- peat
- topsoil
- grey coarse sand
- grey silty clay
- grey white silty clay
- red brown coarse sand
- blue gray sandy clay
- grey brown sand
- brown sandy clay
- grey sandy gravel
- burnt mound

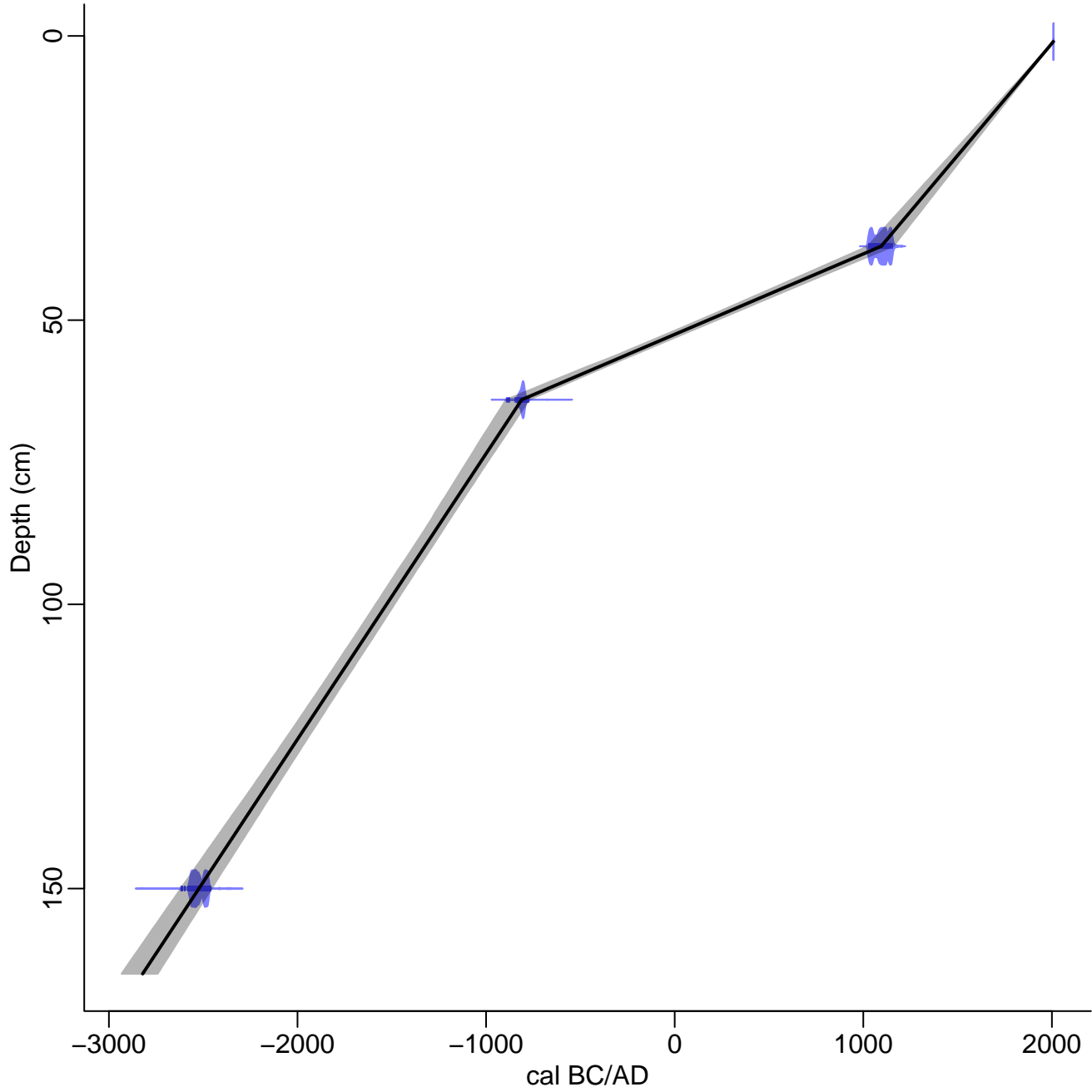
- stones
- charcoal

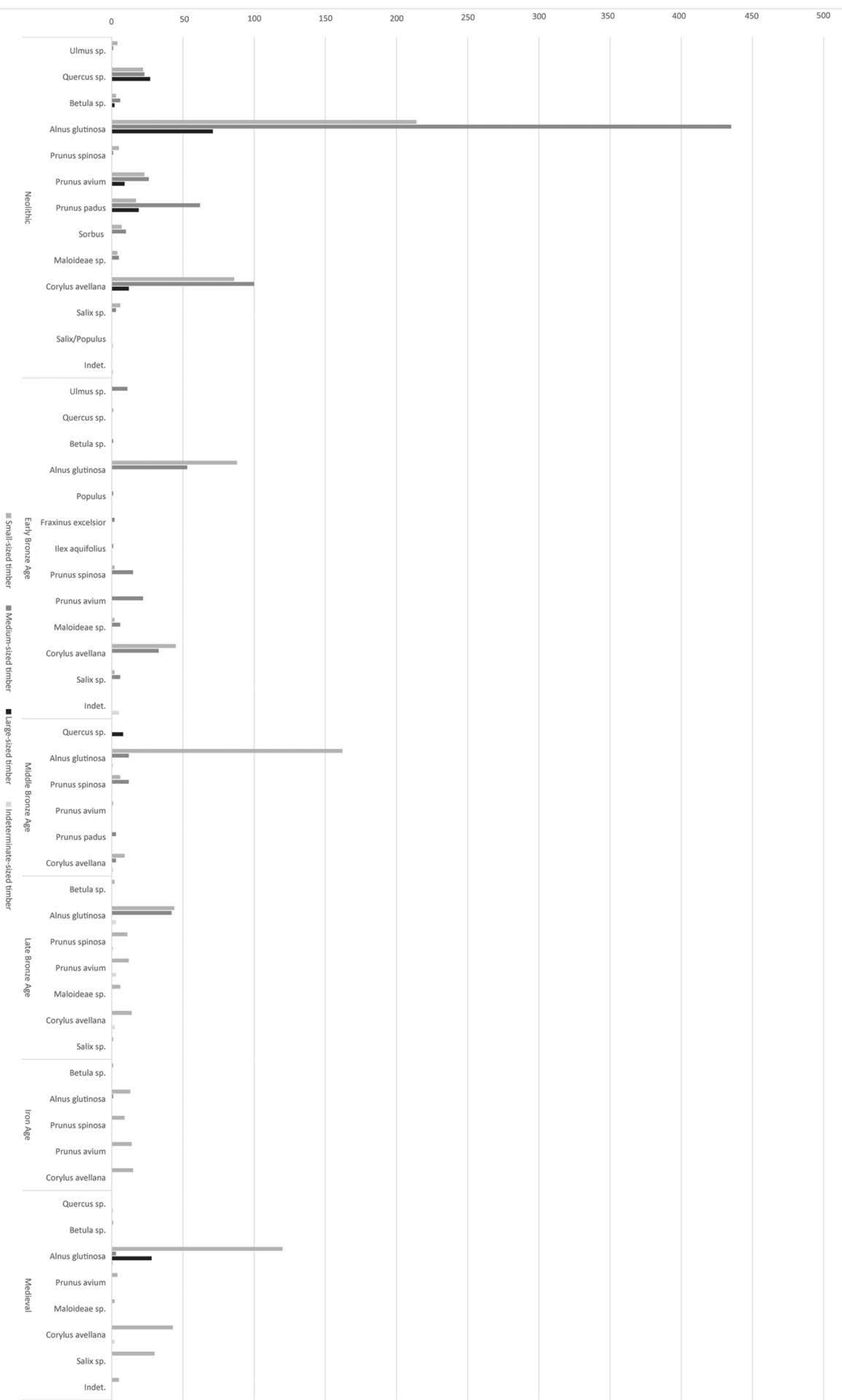














Depth (cm)	Lab number	Dated Material	Radiocarbon Age BP	Date Calibrated (2σ)	Relative Probability
35-36	Poz-83233	Peat (humin)	945 ± 25	cal AD 1027-1155	95.4%
63-64	GU-15846	Peat (humic acid)	2635 ± 35	894-872 cal BC	4.1%
				849-773 cal BC	91.3%
149-150	GU-15848	<i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell	3995 ± 35	2619-2607 cal BC	1.2%
				2599-2594 cal BC	0.4%
				2586-2459 cal BC	93.8%

Table 1. Radiocarbon dating results obtained from Ballygawley, Monolith 1 (calibrated using OxCal 4.2 and IntCal 13).

Depth (cm)	Description of sediments
0-32	Brown humic earth with modern roots
32-38.5	grey-brown clayey loam
38.5-47.5	Dark brown-grey clayey peat
47.5-85	Yellow-grey silty clay
85-97	Dark brown peaty silt
97-98.5	Light brown-grey sandy silt
98.5-108.5	Dark brown-black clayey peat with occasional wood fragments
108.5-125	Dark grey clayey silt
125-135.5	Dark grey clayey silt with wood fragments
135.5-150	Dark grey-brown clayey peat with wood fragments
150-156.5	Dark grey-brown sandy, silty clay with wood fragments
156.5-168	Dark grey peaty clay with gravels and wood fragments

Burnt Mound	Sample Number	Context Number	Lab code	Dated material	$\delta^{13}C$	Radiocarbon Age BP	Date Calibrated (2σ)	Relative Probability
BM9030	676	9260	GU-17361	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-27.1‰	4200±35	2897-2836 cal BC	27.6%
							2816-2671 cal BC	67.8%
BM9003	502	9229	GU-17339	<i>Quercus</i> charcoal	-26.2‰	4125±30	2867-2803 cal BC	25.8%
							2777-2581 cal BC	69.6%
BM9003	359	9235	GU-17348	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-23.9‰	4045±30	2834-2819 cal BC	3.2%
							2660-2649 cal BC	1.6%
							2635-2475 cal BC	90.6%
BM9003	428	9244	GU-17359	<i>Corylus avellana</i> charcoal	-27.3‰	4040±30	2832-2821 cal BC	2.0%
							2631-2474 cal BC	93.4%
BM9004	360	9004	GU-17358	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-27.6‰	4000±30	2577-2468 cal BC	95.4%
BM9782	1120	9892	GU-17380	<i>Salix</i> charcoal	-26.3‰	3970±30	2575-2452 cal BC	90.4%
							2420-2460 cal BC	1.9%
							2378-2350 cal BC	3.2%
BM9782	1469	9961	GU-18406	<i>Corylus avellana</i> waterlogged timber	-28.4‰	3845±30	2457-2471 cal BC	10.3%
							2409-2205 cal BC	85.1%
BM9781	1718	9975	GU-18407	<i>Alder glutinosa</i> waterlogged timber	-27.5‰	3935±30	2563-2534 cal BC	5.5%
							2493-2337 cal BC	87.8%
							2322-2308 cal BC	2.0%
BM9781	1716	9957	GU-18405	<i>Alder glutinosa</i> waterlogged timber	-28.9‰	3865±30	2463-2278 cal BC	87.6%
							2252-2229 cal BC	5.7%
							2221-2211 cal BC	2.1%
BM9781	1119	9879	GU-17379	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-28.7‰	3805±30	2343-2140 cal BC	95.4%
BM9028	659	9355	GU-17346	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-25.3‰	3910±30	2473-2299 cal BC	95.4%
BM9321	669	9323	GU-17345	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-27.4‰	3880±30	2467-2286 cal BC	94.2%

Burnt Mound	Sample Number	Context Number	Lab code	Dated material	$\delta^{13}C$	Radiocarbon Age BP	Date Calibrated (2 σ)	Relative Probability
							2247-2236 cal BC	1.2%
BM9031	176	9031	GU-17350	<i>Corylus avellana</i> charcoal	-25.9‰	3865±35	2465-2247 cal BC	84.2%
							2256-2209 cal BC	11.2%
BM9034	1466	9876	GU-17381	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-25.4‰	3850±35	2459-2206 cal BC	95.4%
BM9986	1772	9986	GU-17382	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-26.0‰	3840±30	2457-2417 cal BC	8.4%
							2409-2202 cal BC	87.0%
BM9986	1430	9919	GU-18404	<i>Alder glutinosa</i> waterlogged timber	-28.6‰	3825±30	2455-2419 cal BC	3.8%
							2406-2376 cal BC	4.7%
							2351-2196 cal BC	83.4%
							2171-2147 cal BC	3.4%
BM9011	456	9272	GU-18398	<i>Corylus avellana</i> waterlogged stake	-30.1‰	3480±30	1888-1737 cal BC	90.9%
							1715-1697 cal BC	4.5%
BM9011	247	9011	GU-17354	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-25.5‰	3465±30	1883-1732 cal BC	84.4%
							1720-1693 cal BC	11.0%
BM9009	513	9147	GU-18396	<i>Quercus</i> waterlogged wood	-26.2‰	3370±30	1745-1611 cal BC	94.8%
							1572-1566 cal BC	0.6%
BM9009	440	9208	GU-18397	<i>Alder glutinosa</i> waterlogged timber	-28.5‰	3250±30	1613-1491 cal BC	80.5%
							1485-1451 cal BC	14.9%
BM9009	764	9009	GU-17364	Charred grain <i>Hordeum vulgare var nudum</i>	-24.0‰	3215±35	1607-1583 cal BC	4.8%
							1560-1553 cal BC	0.9%
							1547-1417 cal BC	89.7%
BM9009	794	9555	GU-18399	<i>Corylus avellana</i> waterlogged stake	-26.4‰	3215±30	1600-1586 cal BC	2.4%
							1535-1420 cal BC	93.0%
BM9373	775	9539	GU-17363	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-26.7‰	3365±35	1746-1603 cal BC	88.4%
							1585-1544 cal BC	6.7%

Burnt Mound	Sample Number	Context Number	Lab code	Dated material	$\delta^{13}C$	Radiocarbon Age BP	Date Calibrated (2 σ)	Relative Probability
							1538-1535 cal BC	0.4%
BM9132	181	9132	GU-17351	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-27.2‰	3330±30	1689-1528 cal BC	95.4%
BM9033	256	9174	GU-17355	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-25.6‰	3025±35	1396-1191 cal BC	91.8%
							1177-1163 cal BC	1.6%
							1144-1131 cal BC	2.0%
BM9033	254	9095	GU-17347	<i>Corylus avellana</i> charcoal	-21.4‰	2970±35	1286-1054 cal BC	95.4%
BM9729	1063	9801	GU-17377	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-27.4‰	3010±30	1386-1340 cal BC	12.2%
							1310-1157 cal BC	78.9%
							1147-1128 cal BC	4.4%
BM9808	1041	9809	GU-17376	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-28.1‰	2990±30	1374-1356 cal BC	2.6%
							1301-1118 cal BC	92.8%
BM9593	946	9593	GU-17372	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-26.8‰	2910±35	1214-1006 cal BC	95.4%
BM9524	834	9595	GU-17367	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-27.2‰	2895±35	1209-979 cal BC	95.4%
BM9522	1024	9814	GU-17374	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-27.2‰	2865±35	1188-1181 cal BC	0.7%
							1156-1148 cal BC	0.8%
							1128-923 cal BC	93.9%
BM9522	1017	9819	GU-18403	Indet. waterlogged timber	-28.9‰	2850±30	1111-927 cal BC	95.4%
BM9787	862	9788	GU-17369	<i>Salix</i> charcoal	-25.8‰	2830±30	1083-165 cal BC	1.8%
							1058-906 cal BC	93.6%
BM9523	851	9523	GU-17368	<i>Corylus avellana</i> charcoal	-24.1‰	2820±35	1108-1100 cal BC	0.6%
							1089-896 cal BC	94.8%
BM9029	644	9363	GU-17343	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-25.8‰	2480±30	774-482 cal BC	94.9%
							441-434 cal BC	0.5%

Burnt Mound	Sample Number	Context Number	Lab code	Dated material	$\delta^{13}C$	Radiocarbon Age BP	Date Calibrated (2 σ)	Relative Probability
BM9520	921	9530	GU-17370	<i>Betula</i> charcoal	-25.8‰	2455±35	756-679 cal BC	26.5%
							671-413 cal BC	68.9%
BM9025	331	9202	GU-17356	<i>Prunus spinosa</i> charcoal	-28.4‰	1270±30	cal AD 663-778	92.3%
							cal AD 792-804	1.3%
							cal AD 819-821	0.2%
							cal AD 842-859	1.6%
BM9190	316	9190	GU-17357	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> charcoal	-26.6‰	1185±30	cal AD 725-739	1.8%
							cal AD 767-900	88.3%
							cal AD 922-949	5.3%
BM9190	334	9087	GU-18394	<i>Alder glutinosa</i> waterlogged timber	-28.6‰	960±30	cal AD 1020-1155	95.4%
BM9032	163	9078	GU-17349	<i>Corylus avellana</i> charcoal	-24.8‰	945±30	cal AD 1025-1157	95.4%
BM9032	814	9659	GU-17366	<i>Betula</i> charcoal	-27.0‰	910±30	cal AD 1033-1190	94.0%
							cal AD 1198-1204	1.4%
BM9518	970	9670	GU-18401	<i>Salix</i> waterlogged wood	-27.8‰	910±30	cal AD 1033-1190	94.0%
							cal AD 1198-1204	1.4%
BM9575	1038	9575	GU-17375	<i>Quercus</i> charcoal	-25.9‰	885±30	cal AD 1041-1108	31.6%
							cal AD 1116-1220	63.8%

Trough	Sample Number	Context Number	Lab code	Dated material	$\delta^{13}C$	Radiocarbon Age BP	Date Calibrated (2σ)	Relative Probability
9687	1044	9764	GU-18402	<i>Quercus</i> waterlogged wood	-26.9‰	2950±30	1260-1241 cal BC	3.2%
							1236-1051 cal BC	92.2%
9037	241	9077	GU-18393	<i>Corylus avellana</i> waterlogged wood	-28.9‰	2230±30	384-339 cal BC	20.8%
							328-204 cal BC	74.6%
9037	678	9140	GU-18395	<i>Salix</i> waterlogged wood	-27.9‰	2225±30	380-203 cal BC	95.4%
9590	974	9630	GU-18400	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> waterlogged wood	-27.3‰	955±30	cal AD 1022-1155	95.4%

Burnt Mound	Trough	Preservation Score	Radiocarbon Dates from Timbers (2σ)	Construction Style	Measurements (m)	Evidence for Wood Working	Evidence for Woodland Management?
BM9781	9939	1-3	2563-2308 cal BC (GU-18407) to 2463-2211 cal BC (GU-18405)	<p>Oval trough with double lined timber floor and possible wattle lining. All of the upper flooring is converted with 1 radial half split, 1 radial third split and 3 tangentially aligned. Of the basal flooring all but one timber is converted with a variety of conversions including 1 timber hewn at one end into boxed heart, 1 radial split, a radial third split, 2 tangentially aligned. One timber is charred on both faces.</p> <p>Upper flooring is <i>Alnus</i> and <i>Corylus</i>; basal flooring is <i>Alnus</i> and <i>Maloideae</i>. Wattle is unidentified.</p>	1.40 x 1.10 x 0.26	Two timbers with ends worked into 'oar-shape' inserted into deposits to secure timbers.	None.
BM9782	9946	2-4	2457-2205 cal BC (GU-18406)	Wattle-lined oval trough, second phase of use of initial pit. Roundwood recovered from base of feature may include elements of wattle revetting.	1.00 x 1.05 x 0.20	Wattle sails have all had lower ends worked into points. Tool facets indicate stone tools used. One tool mark recorded.	<i>Corylus</i> wattle possibly derived from coppice. Length of sails between 230-280mm and diameters of 25-500mm. Two roundwoods may

Burnt Mound	Trough	Preservation Score	Radiocarbon Dates from Timbers (2σ)	Construction Style	Measurements (m)	Evidence for Wood Working	Evidence for Woodland Management?
				Wattle is all <i>Corylus</i> . Roundwood is <i>Alnus</i> , <i>Corylus</i> and <i>Salix/Populus</i>			represent either coppice rods or brushwood.
BM9034	9869	1-3	2459-2206 cal BC (GU-17381)* *charcoal date	Oval trough with timber floor and wattle lining. Flooring of 7 unconverted timbers, 3 radial half split and 1 radial third split. Flooring is all <i>Alnus</i> with one <i>Corylus</i> timber; wattle is <i>Corylus</i> .	1.42 x 1.27 x 0.26	Floor timbers trimmed at either both or one end. Tool marks evident on 5 timbers.	<i>Corylus</i> wattle possibly derived from coppice. All sails <250mm in length, diameters 18-30mm.
BM9009	9147 (includes 9208)	1-4	1745-1566 cal BC (GU-18396) to 1613-1440 cal BC (GU-18397) (Dendrochronological analysis cross-matched 5 of the <i>Quercus</i> timbers and gave a felling date for 1590 cal BC)	Rectangular trough with flooring of split planks, aligned with the long-axis of the trough. Wattle revetting of edge of structure Stakes driven through plank floor. Variety of conversions in the flooring; 4 are radially and tangentially aligned with a square cross-section, 4 are tangentially aligned and 2 are radially aligned. Planks are heartwood only. Flooring is all <i>Quercus</i> . Wattle is <i>Alnus</i> , <i>Corylus</i> , <i>Alnus/Corylus</i> , <i>Salix/Populus</i> and indeterminate.	1.62 x 1.29 x 0.25	Secondary tooling was present on 2 planks which have tool facets on one face where they have been hewn. Of the 21 wattle sails, 18 have worked ends, 14 are trimmed at one end from one direction and 4 at one end in two directions.	Wattle sails displays morphological traits indicative of potential coppice. 4 samples where rings were visible had counts of 5-10 years. Sails had lengths of 100-565mm and diameters of 11-42mm.

Burnt Mound	Trough	Preservation Score	Radiocarbon Dates from Timbers (2σ)	Construction Style	Measurements (m)	Evidence for Wood Working	Evidence for Woodland Management?
N/A	9687	2	1260-1051 cal BC (GU-18402)	<p>Rectangular trough cut into burnt mound (BM9621). Base of trough is single large timber. Timber is tangential outer split. . A small piece of tangentially split timber was recovered under the trough timber.</p> <p>Large timber is <i>Quercus</i>, split timber is <i>Alnus</i>.</p>	3.6 x 0.98 x 0.15	No surviving evidence due to poor preservation.	
BM9522	9812	2-4	1111-927 cal BC (GU-18403)	<p>Rectangular trough lined with partially surviving wooden structure. 18 timbers were recovered from the wooden trough lining including 7 floor planks, 2 revetting planks, 5 retaining stakes and 4 pieces of debris. All 7 floor timbers have been converted. 6 are tangentially aligned with 4 modified to have a rectangular cross-section. One stake was tangentially split.</p> <p>A single woodchip was recovered and one piece of unclassified debris.</p>	1.7 x 0.85 x 0.3	<p>Basic level of wood working – no evidence of finishing or jointing. Evidence for trimming recorded on one end of a floor timber in one direction, flat across axis.</p> <p>All stakes worked to a point at lower end.</p>	All of the stakes displayed morphological features associated with possible coppicing. The stakes measured between 240-360 mm in length and 60-70mm in diameter.

Burnt Mound	Trough	Preservation Score	Radiocarbon Dates from Timbers (2 σ)	Construction Style	Measurements (m)	Evidence for Wood Working	Evidence for Woodland Management?
				Planks are <i>Alnus</i> , <i>Corylus</i> and indeterminate (due to poor preservation). Stakes are <i>Alnus</i> and <i>Corylus</i> and <i>Alnus/Corylus</i> . Woodchip is <i>Alnus</i> . Debris is <i>Alnus</i> .			
BM9032	9037	3	384-204 cal BC (GU-18393)	Oval trough with a wattle lined base and wattle revetting, which would have stood up to 0.5m tall around the side of the trough. A layer of moss was recorded below the wattle lining. All of the wattle examined had bark, sapwood and heartwood intact. Roundwood all <i>Corylus</i> .	2.57 x 2.12 x 0.5	Four of the examined rods had trimmed ends at one end in one direction. Excavators suggest trough constructed from a pre-formed wattle hurdle.	Wattle appears to be derived from possible coppice. 9 samples had rings visible and ranged from 2-10 years. The sails had a maximum length of 1840mm and maximum diameter of 30mm. The weavers had a maximum length of 1800mm and maximum diameter of 10-50mm.

Burnt Mound	Trough	Preservation Score	Radiocarbon Dates from Timbers (2σ)	Construction Style	Measurements (m)	Evidence for Wood Working	Evidence for Woodland Management?
BM9190	9067	1-4	cal AD 1020-1155 (GU-18394)	<p>Square trough constructed of 9 split planks for the flooring, 9 revetting planks at the sides held by 18 retaining stakes. Floor planks are tangentially aligned splits with rectangular cross-section. Two of the revetting planks are tangentially aligned one is radially aligned, remainder of uncertain conversion. Retvetting stakes have primary conversion evident; 12 stakes are tangentially aligned, 1 is a boxed heart, 1 is of uncertain conversion and 2 are unconverted.</p> <p>Floor planks are <i>Alnus</i> and <i>Fraxinus</i>. Retvetting planks are <i>Fraxinus</i>, <i>Corylus</i>, <i>Alnus</i> and <i>Salix/Populus</i>. Retvetting stakes are <i>Alnus</i>, <i>Corylus</i> and <i>Fraxinus</i>.</p>	2.0 x 1.8 x 0.35	<p>Little surviving tooling evidence. One floor plank has been trimmed at one end from four directions into a tapered point.</p> <p>Tooling visible on the revetting stakes where 13 stakes have evidence of being trimmed to a point or tapered point from 1-4 directions; in 2 cases the visible facets are flat.</p>	The 2 unconverted wooden retaining stakes have morphological features associated with possible coppicing. The length of all the stakes vary between 90-900mm and the unconverted stakes have a diameter of 40-50mm.
N/A	9590	1-4	cal AD 1022-1155 (GU-18400)	Oval trough lined with 5 large floor planks, aligned east-west, edge of the trough revetted by 23 vertically set	N/A	Of the floor planks one is trimmed flat at one end and has tool mark	

Burnt Mound	Trough	Preservation Score	Radiocarbon Dates from Timbers (2σ)	Construction Style	Measurements (m)	Evidence for Wood Working	Evidence for Woodland Management?
				<p>timbers. 1 floor plank is tangentially aligned and 1 is tangentially split, 2 are boxed half split and 1 is an outer tangential split. The revetting timbers are all split. 2 are of uncertain conversion, 4 are radially converted and 16 are tangentially aligned. 1 is radially and tangentially aligned with a rectangular cross-section.</p> <p>Floor planks are all <i>Alnus</i>. Revetment timbers are <i>Alnus</i>, <i>Corylus</i> and indeterminate.</p>		<p>evident. One is trimmed at one end and from one direction. Three are trimmed flat at one end and trimmed in two directions from the other and have felling scars evident. A faint signature tool mark was found on one plank. One plank has been hewn to a chamfer on one side (sapwood removal?).</p> <p>12 of the revetting timbers have been worked at their lower ends. All have been worked to a point or tapered point from 1-4 directions. Tool marks were noted</p>	

Burnt Mound	Trough	Preservation Score	Radiocarbon Dates from Timbers (2 σ)	Construction Style	Measurements (m)	Evidence for Wood Working	Evidence for Woodland Management?
						from the trimmed ends of four timbers.	
BM9518	9578	1-3	cal AD 1033-1204 (GU-18401)	Oval trough with 11 floor planks and no evidence of revetting. Floor planks were radially cleft. Floor planks are <i>Alnus</i> , <i>Alnus/Corylus</i> , <i>Quercus</i> and indeterminate.	1.15 x 1.05 x 0.23	Floor planks were too decayed for survival of tool marks.	